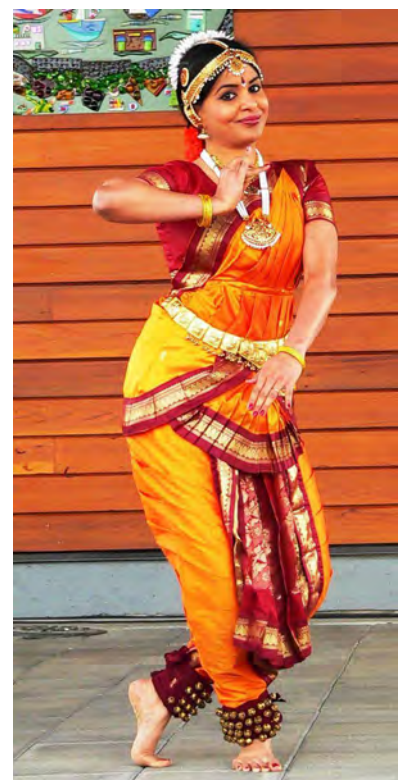


CITY OF SAMMAMISH

2012

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN



**CITY OF SAMMAMISH
WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. 02012-325**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE
2012 PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PRO) PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the City's Initial PRO Plan in December 2004 as part of Parks Element in the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan is part of the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan, Appendix C; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan, contains an updated parks inventory, retains the valuation-based primary level of service standard, provides updated goals and objectives and an updated capital improvement plan (CIP) as required to meet RCW 36.70.070; and

WHEREAS, an environmental review of the Comprehensive Plan amendment was conducted in accordance with the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and a non-project SEPA Determination of Non-significance was issued on April 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the public process for the proposed amendment provided for early and continuous public participation opportunities including ten public open house meetings in 2010, a public survey in July 2010, two public hearings before the Planning Commission on October 6 and 20 2011, public meeting conducted by the City Council on March 12, 2012 and public hearings before the City Council on May 1 and 14 2012; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan was created to maintain state grant eligibility from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and guides department operations; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended adoption of the PRO Plan to the City Council on March 19, 2012; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Adoption of PRO Plan. The Sammamish City Council hereby adopts the 2012 Sammamish PRO Plan.

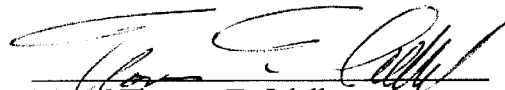
Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after the date of publication.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or

otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this Resolution be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A SPECIAL MEETING THEREOF ON
THE 14th DAY OF MAY, 2012**


CITY OF SAMMAMISH



Mayor Thomas T. Odell

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Melonie Anderson, City Clerk



Approved as to form:



Bruce L. Disend, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk:	April 24, 2012
Public Hearing:	May 1, 2012
First Reading:	May 1, 2012
Public Hearing:	May 14, 2012
Passed by the City Council:	May 14, 2012
Date of Publication:	May 17, 2012
Effective Date:	May 22, 2012

Acknowledgements



We would like to thank the many citizens, staff, and community groups who contributed their time, expertise and interest to help develop this plan update.

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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary



Purpose

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, also known as the PRO Plan, serves as a high-level planning document to help guide Sammamish into our second decade of cityhood. The plan outlines goals and policies that recognize the challenging economic times while also providing for strategic growth, development and improvement of the parks and recreation system. The PRO Plan is part of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers 12 grant programs.

Groundwork for the PRO Plan began with an inventory of the park system, including land, facilities and programs. Current conditions were summarized for each park, trail, open space area and facility. A list of department programs and events was also compiled. The City sought feedback from a wide range of Sammamish residents regarding their needs, preferences, attitudes, and vision for parks and recreation. Several formats for public participation were offered, including public and school meetings, an informal Web survey, a statistical survey, a Web comment form, and open meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.

A steering committee was established to oversee the PRO Plan update. The committee included members from the Parks and Recreation, Planning, and Arts commissions. They provided guidance to staff and recommendations to the City Council on the contents of the plan. In addition, members reported back to their respective commissions on the progress of the PRO Plan update.

Since the very first Sammamish PRO Plan was adopted in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished a number of the original objectives and has made progress toward many others. A comprehensive list of accomplishments can be found in Appendix B.





Executive Summary

Community Profile

Once a rural part of King County, the City of Sammamish quickly grew in population after its incorporation in August 1999. Despite considerable development and growth, Sammamish remains a blend of both urban and rural characteristics. The median age of Sammamish residents was 37.6 in 2010 and over half (51.9 percent) of the households are married couples with children. Sammamish is a young community, with one-third of its population under the age of 19. It is predominately Caucasian with the fifth-largest median income level in the state of Washington.

Park System

The City of Sammamish implemented the park system at incorporation, when several parks were transferred from King County to the City. Since that time, the park system has grown from 44 acres to 490 acres.

The Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department includes 10 full-time staff members, two interns, four part-time facility staff, and 12 summer lifeguards. The City is now the single-largest provider of parks and recreation services in Sammamish. These services include administration, planning and development, wellness, culture and arts, recreation programming, park and facility maintenance, and volunteer services.

The Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the park system. This division shares resources with the Public Works Division. The Parks M&O team includes five full-time staff members in addition to a parks resource coordinator. Approximately 13 seasonal positions are filled in 4-month and 9-month durations, which are staggered throughout the year.

The Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department uses the adopted park classification system when planning new parks. This system encompasses different types of parks, open space areas, and facilities all designed to provide diverse recreational experiences. The park classifications include community park, neighborhood park, mini park, special use park, school/city partnership park, open space/natural area, and trails.



Executive Summary



The parks level of service (LOS) provides a benchmark or measure to help determine how many parks and what kinds of parks are needed to meet the needs of the Sammamish community. The Sammamish Parks LOS measures the overall park investment per person (valuation based model), which is further described in Chapter 3. This model allows the City to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and priorities instead of adhering to arbitrary ratios for each type of park facility. This calculation also serves as the basis for the park impact fee rate. Revenue from the impact fee is used to fund parks capital projects including public facilities, land acquisition, site improvements, new park construction and park renovations.

While the valuation based model is intended to serve as a guideline for funding parks and recreation facilities, it is not intended to be a stand-alone measure of service needs. Many other variables may be considered when determining the appropriate level of investment in the parks system. Completing a secondary LOS analysis is identified as a priority for the next plan update. Additional analysis may include an analysis of community demand and needs, anticipation of future growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces, and maintenance and operating costs.

Athletic Fields

Twenty athletic leagues were identified as regular users of the Sammamish athletic fields. The City of Sammamish has an inventory of eleven sports fields within five athletic facilities managed by the Parks Department. In addition to the City of Sammamish athletic fields, leagues utilize other fields inside and outside of Sammamish city limits to meet their needs. There are 67 non-city-owned fields at 25 locations serving a variety of sports within the city and one mile beyond city limits.

The demand for field use has increased due to the growth of participation in youth sports and the introduction of select programs that practice year-round. To add to the complexity of managing athletic fields, every sport requires a different field configuration, and age groups within the sport often require a different field size.





Executive Summary

Analysis of existing field use shows availability year-round on weekdays at the Beaver Lake Park fields and availability on weekends at all fields during the months of August, September, and October. Improvements to operations and scheduling practices, as well as the construction of new fields and the continued improvement of existing fields, are the solution to providing greater field capacity in the future.

Facilities

Facilities examined in this section include indoor recreation amenities as well as park pavilions and shelters. Although Sammamish has been a city for only a short time, there are several indoor recreation facilities available to the public and a number of park pavilions and shelters. Many indoor facilities and shelters were part of existing King County parks or were built for other purposes before the land became a park. The Beaver Lake Lodge is one example. Since the city's incorporation, other parks have been established and additional facilities added. Through a partnership with the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, the City is a partner in a brand-new recreation center primarily for young adults. However, major indoor recreation facilities are still lacking for a city with the population base of Sammamish.

In the past, most recreation in public spaces took place outdoors. Now more communities are in need of indoor recreation space. This is particularly true in Sammamish where summers are short and weather is unpredictable year round. Growth in youth sports and high demand for school gyms have left most communities needing gym space. As the number of households led by single parents or two working parents increases, so does the need for youth programming. Senior citizens are the fastest-growing segment of society and desire indoor walking tracks, exercise areas, pools, and classroom space.

Although there are no established national levels of service for indoor recreation facilities, some communities are adopting basic guidelines for square footage per person. The average is 1 to 3 square feet for general indoor recreation amenities. The trend in the last five years is an increase in square foot range as the demand for and popularity of indoor recreation facilities rise.



Executive Summary



The City of Sammamish has 11 picnic shelters and one pavilion in its current park inventory. In its fee schedule, the City classifies its shelters into Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities, based on popularity rather than size. Small shelters are not rented and are available on a first-come first-served basis. Picnic shelter reservations are scheduled from March through September. As with indoor recreation facilities, there are no established levels of service for park pavilions or shelters. However, future shelters and pavilions should follow the development guidelines set forth in chapter 5 for each park classification.

Recreation

Recreation programming takes on many forms: adventure, aquatics, cultural arts, educational/instructional classes, environmental, health and wellness, special events, and specialized recreation for individuals with disabilities or other special needs. When the City incorporated in 1999, public recreation programs were provided primarily by the cities of Redmond and Issaquah. Local nonprofits, service clubs, private organizations and churches also provided programming. Today these providers continue to deliver opportunities for recreation, along with the City of Sammamish. The city's major role in recreation programming is the production of large community special events. The City hosts a concert and performance series and also manages signature events such as the Fourth on the Plateau and Sammamish Days.

As the City of Sammamish contemplates the future of recreation, including the possibility of a new community and aquatic center, early results from community outreach indicate a strong desire for additional recreation programs in Sammamish.

Cultural Arts

Arts and culture play a vital role in the Sammamish community by encouraging creativity, challenging us to see the world through different eyes, providing a connection to the past, and celebrating and honoring the diversity of the community. The Sammamish Arts Commission (SAC), formed in 2003, serves as an advisory body to the City Council on matters related to arts and culture in the city. In addition to installing art in public parks, promoting performances and readings, and offering classes and educational experiences, the





Executive Summary

SAC procured a rotating art exhibit at City Hall which displays local, regional, and national artists throughout the building.

There are a number of benefits to arts, culture and heritage programs and opportunities in the community. Some of these benefits include economic vitality, health and wellness, improved learning, and intrinsic value. Respondents to the 2010 PRO Plan phone survey indicated Sammamish residents would like more music performances, with theater arts and visual arts the second and third priority respectively.

Volunteers and Partnerships

Residents were actively involved in the community long before Sammamish became a city. Their ongoing dedication has been evident in tireless work on issues such as incorporation and in generous giving of time for sports, school programs, and local politics. Since incorporation, the City has built upon this foundation by establishing a formal volunteer program and partnering with a number of community groups to continue the tradition of grass-roots community service.

The City of Sammamish has developed partnerships with several organizations that complement existing programs. Partnerships with the school districts include National Honor Society, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), environmental clubs and classrooms. The City also partners with many nonprofits, including Kiwanis, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous faith-based organizations.



Executive Summary



Implementation

Specific projects are identified through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a six-year planning document that is re-evaluated every two years as part of the city's biennial budget process. It identifies specific projects, funding sources, and project timelines over a six-year period. The projects include parks-related acquisition, repair, renovation, replacement, and development. Planning-level cost estimates are developed for each project. Since costs fluctuate over time and the estimates are preliminary, contingency funds are allocated within the CIP. Funding for the parks CIP is primarily derived from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and park impact fees.





Introduction **1**

Introduction



Sammamish Residents Value and Appreciate Parks and Recreation



The Sammamish community has clearly indicated that it places a high value on the parks and recreation system. Outdoor play, sports, hiking, swimming, biking, walking, nature watching, and many other activities and experiences contribute to the overall quality of life in the city. In fact, this is the reason many people have moved to Sammamish in recent years. It's a perfect nexus between the urban cities that help us meet our modern-day needs and the rural forests and farms that allow us to experience the serenity of nature. It's that very balance that we strive to preserve in planning for the future of parks and recreation in Sammamish.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, also known as the PRO Plan, serves as a high-level planning document to help guide us into our second decade of cityhood. The plan outlines goals and objectives that recognize the challenging economic times while also providing for strategic growth, development, and improvement of the parks and recreation system.

This collaborative piece was influenced by many individuals. As such, compromises were made, ideas expanded, and goals refined, ultimately leading to a new vision for the Sammamish parks and recreation system.



Comprehensive Plan Mission and Vision Statement

This statement from the Sammamish Comprehensive Plan represents the vision for the Sammamish Community:

The vision of Sammamish is a community of families. A blend of small-town atmosphere with a suburban character, the City also enjoys a unique core of urban lifestyles and conveniences. It is characterized by quality neighborhoods, vibrant natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. A variety of community gathering places provide numerous civic, cultural, and educational opportunities. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.





Introduction

The vision statement from the City's Comprehensive Plan highlights aspirations for outstanding recreational opportunities and for preservation of natural features. It directs the City to:

- Establish a park and recreation system that meets the high standards of the community.
- Create a safe and interesting network of trails.
- Preserve trees and greenways by encouraging the preservation or development of large areas of greenery that provide a visual impact as opposed to creating small areas of unusable residue.¹

Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statement

The Parks and Recreation Commission in cooperation with the citizens of Sammamish developed a new mission and vision to reflect the current needs of the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Community well-being through diverse recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship

CORE VALUES

Stewardship
Integrity
Sustainability
Teamwork
Inclusiveness

VISION STATEMENT

Maintain safe places to play and recreate.

Develop a parks and recreation system that meets diverse community needs.

Provide recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles and a sense of community.

Serve as a steward of the environment to preserve and protect our natural resources.





Purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan



The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Plan is the comprehensive plan for parks and recreation in the City of Sammamish.

This plan:

- Sets clear goals and objectives to carry out the vision of the department and establishes guidelines supporting those goals.
- Creates a forum for residents of Sammamish to express needs and ideas for parks and recreation that are accurately reflected in the plan.
- Meets the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's eligibility requirements for state and local funding and grant programs.
- Meets the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act.
- Is regularly updated to identify new opportunities for growth and implementation.

The PRO Plan is part of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA identifies the following parks and recreation goals for all Washington communities:

- Retain open space.
- Enhance recreational opportunities.
- Conserve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increase access to natural resource lands and water.
- Develop parks and recreational facilities.

The Sammamish PRO Plan establishes a framework for implementation of these goals by identifying priorities, setting policies, and creating a roadmap (guidelines) for recreation development. These elements are then incorporated into a funding plan, the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is used by the City Council for short- and long-term budget planning and also serves as a guide for competitive grant requests.





Introduction

The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers 12 grant programs. To maintain eligibility for these grants, the state agency has identified elements that must be included in the city's parks plan:

- Goals and objectives
- Inventory of parks and facilities
- Public process
- Needs assessment
- Capital improvement plan
- Plan adoption

The City of Sammamish adopted its first PRO plan in December 2004. This update includes revisions as well as several new sections. Specific updates are as follows:

- Updated community profile and demographics (to reflect changes in population and social and economic status since the 2004 plan)
- Accomplishments since the 2004 PRO Plan was adopted
- Updated goals and objectives
- Updated inventory of parks, trails, facilities, open space, and programs
- A new section on cultural arts (not included in 2004 PRO Plan)
- A new section on volunteers and partnerships (not included in 2004 PRO Plan)
- A revised park classification system (revises the school park classification and adds an open space/natural area classification)



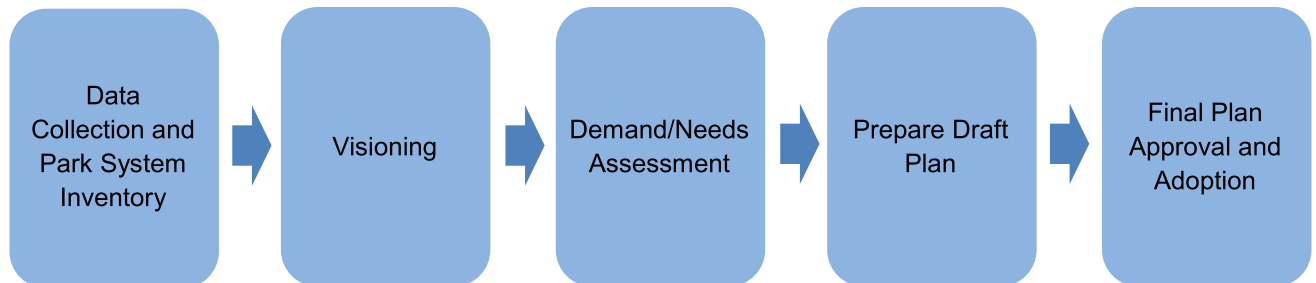
The Planning Process

Groundwork for the PRO Plan began with an inventory of the park system, including land, facilities, and programs. Current conditions were summarized for each park, trail, open space area, and facility. A list of department programs and events was also compiled. Figure 1.1 provides an overview of the PRO Plan update process.





Figure 1.1 PRO Plan Process



Oversight

A steering committee was established to oversee the PRO Plan update. The committee included members from the parks, planning, and arts commissions. They provided guidance to staff and recommendations to the City Council on the contents of the plan. In addition, members reported back to their respective commissions on the progress of the PRO Plan update.

Public Participation

The City sought feedback from a wide range of Sammamish residents regarding their needs, preferences, attitudes, and vision for parks and recreation. Several formats for public participation were offered, including public and school meetings, an informal Web survey, a statistical survey, a Web comment form, and open meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.



Have A Say in How we Play!

Starting in March 2010, a series of neighborhood meetings were held to gather input on the future of parks and recreation in Sammamish. Using the slogan “Have a Say in How We Play,” the Parks and Recreation Department invited people to voice their likes and dislikes about the park system and their thoughts for the future. Notices about these meetings were mailed to every household in Sammamish. The meetings were also advertised in the local newspaper, on the city’s website, in the library, and in coffee shops, grocery stores, and other meeting places around Sammamish. Meetings were held in a variety of locations in the evenings and on weekends.





Introduction

A total of ten public meetings were held and included an overview of the PRO Plan document, the timeline for the update, and group discussions facilitated by department staff and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Information from these meetings was presented to the City Council in April 2010.

Statistical Survey

A statistically valid telephone survey helped identify key themes and priorities for the update. This survey was created with input from the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Hebert Research surveyed 400 Sammamish residents in July 2010. Questions focused on parks, trails, a community and aquatic center, health and wellness, and arts and cultural programs. These survey results were presented to the City Council and Parks Commission in July 2010. The survey questions and results are included in Appendix A.

Community Center Feasibility Study Meetings

In early spring 2011, the City Council authorized consultants to conduct a feasibility study for a community and aquatic center to serve the citizens of Sammamish. Five public meetings and three focus groups were held to discuss programming, market analysis, site analysis, aquatics, budget, business and operations planning, and final design concept. In addition to the public meetings, several council meetings were held in joint session with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the progress on the feasibility study. A comprehensive website was developed for people to learn about the project, review meeting material, and submit comments.

SEPA and Plan Adoption

Before this plan was adopted by the City Council, an environmental checklist was completed to comply with the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA). A determination of nonsignificance was issued on April 17, 2012. The adoption of the plan took place in a regular meeting of the Sammamish City Council on May 14th, 2012.





Accomplishments since the 2004 PRO Plan

Since the PRO Plan was adopted in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished a number of the original objectives and has made progress toward many others.



New programs and events were established, such as:

- Kids noontime concert series
- Fourth on the Plateau event
- Holiday lighting event
- Teen Fest
- Sammamish Days
- Sammamish Farmers Market
- Ten-year anniversary celebration

The department created a facility rentals division, which developed rental policies, increased rental revenues, and added rental office hours at City Hall.

In 2008, volunteer groups began helping with projects such as:

- Removing invasive plants
- Planting native plants
- Constructing trails
- Helping with office tasks
- Providing support at park events

Groups contributing volunteer hours include Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, and several church congregations. Also, the City formed partnerships with groups such as the Washington Native Plant Society, the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys & Girls Club.

New parks were planned and developed, including:

- Sammamish Commons
- Ebright Creek Park
- Beaver Lake Preserve
- Evans Creek Preserve
- Sammamish Landing
- SE 8th Street Park
- Eastlake Community Sports Fields
- Skyline Community Sports Fields





Introduction

New facilities and amenities were opened and developed including:

- Recreation Center
- Sween House
- Skate park
- Off-leash dog area

Improvements include:

- Resurfacing of tennis courts at NE Sammamish Park
- Upgrades to the playground and ball fields at East Sammamish Park
- New picnic shelters at Pine Lake Park
- New restroom roof at Pine Lake Park
- Dock and shoreline renovations at Pine Lake Park
- Lodge improvements at Beaver Lake Park

A complete list of the City's accomplishments can be found in Appendix B.



Notes

1. City of Sammamish, Comprehensive Plan, August 2006 , IX-1.





Community Profile **2**

Community Profile



Introduction

The Community Profile chapter provides an overview of life in Sammamish – from habitats to people and populations. This information serves as a foundation for the goals and objectives identified in future chapters and helps the reader better understand the Sammamish community.



A Local and Regional Look at Sammamish

The City of Sammamish is located west of the Cascade Mountains in the Puget Sound region, about 20 miles east of Seattle. The western edge of the city lies along Lake Sammamish. It is bordered to the south by Issaquah, to the north by Redmond, and to the east by rural King County. The City covers 22 square miles and measures some 7 miles north to south along the shore of Lake Sammamish and some 6 miles east to west at its widest point (See Figure 2.1).



Twenty years ago, Sammamish was mostly rural in nature, with a few remaining farmsteads. Today the City comprises residential housing, schools, churches, and two neighborhood shopping center districts that include grocery stores, banks, gas stations, shops, and restaurants. The Town Center, located in the approximate center of the City, is zoned for mixed use development of some 2,000 dwelling units and 600,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. Interstate 90 provides access from the south, and State Route 202 provides access from the north. The closest major airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, 26 miles southwest of town. No major rail line serves the city. A former Burlington Northern rail line is now a King County regional trail running along the shores of Lake Sammamish and the western edge of the city. Several King County Metro bus routes travel the main arterials of town, providing limited bus service to regional destinations: Issaquah, Redmond, and downtown Seattle.





Community Profile

Figure 2.1: Regional Map of Western Washington ¹



Community Profile



A Brief History of Sammamish²



Sammamish was home to Native American tribes (such as the Snoqualmie) long before settlers began arriving in the 1870s and 1880s. The attraction to the early settlers of Sammamish, and the major industry at the time, was logging. This is not surprising considering the landscape was dotted with mature trees and the forested area had grown virtually untouched for centuries.

In the 1930s the population remained small at less than 1,000. The southern area of Sammamish was developing faster than other areas, largely due to the location of several resorts: the Tanska Auto Camp and French's LaPine Resort, both on Pine Lake, and the Four Seasons Resort on Beaver Lake.

The population of Sammamish climbed above 1,000 in the 1950s. Dairy and chicken farming remained a main industry but would see a gradual decline in the coming decades. In the early '60s and into the '70s, development started to increase, but the area was still secluded and relatively untouched compared with neighboring urban developments.



In the mid '80s, growth was notable and schools and shopping centers began to appear in the landscape. In 1984 the population surpassed 10,000, and within the decade residents would begin to contemplate incorporation.

The City of Sammamish incorporated on August 31, 1999. Each year since, urbanization has been more and more evident, leading to what is now known as the City of Sammamish. Despite considerable development and a growth in the population, Sammamish remains a blend of both urban and rural characteristics.





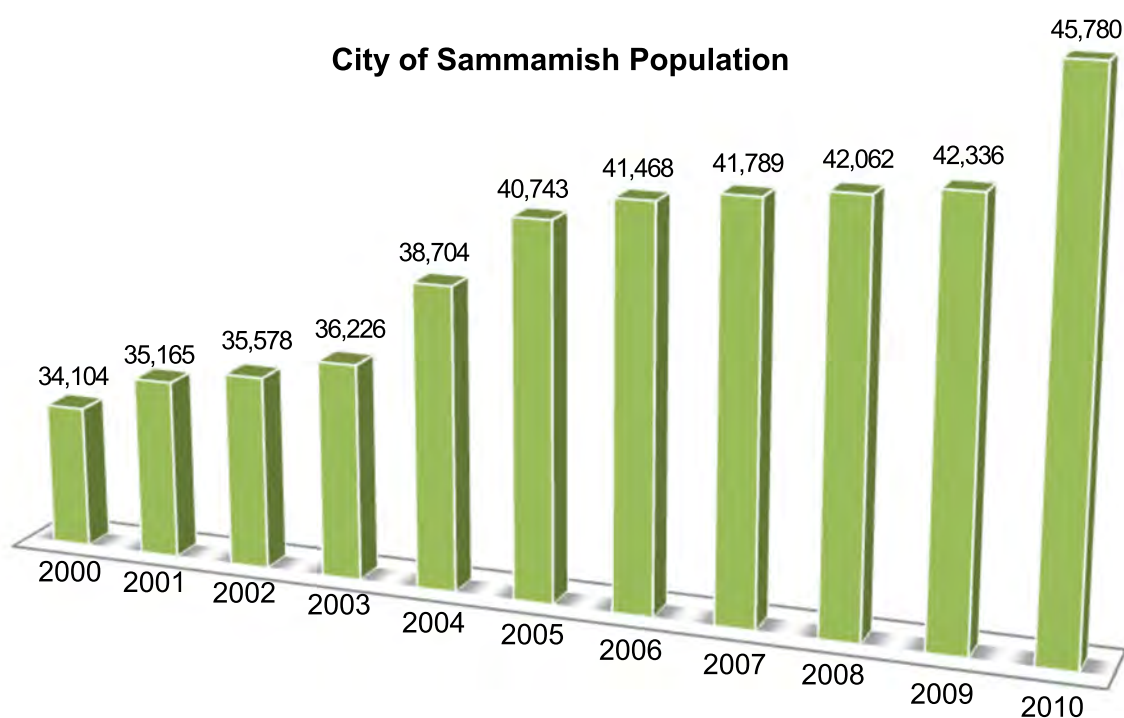
Community Profile

Demographic Profile

Population

Sammamish had 45,780 residents in 2010, making it the 24th largest city in Washington State. Figure 2.2 shows the population growth in Sammamish from 2000 to 2010.

Figure 2.2: City of Sammamish Population Estimates 2000-2010 ³



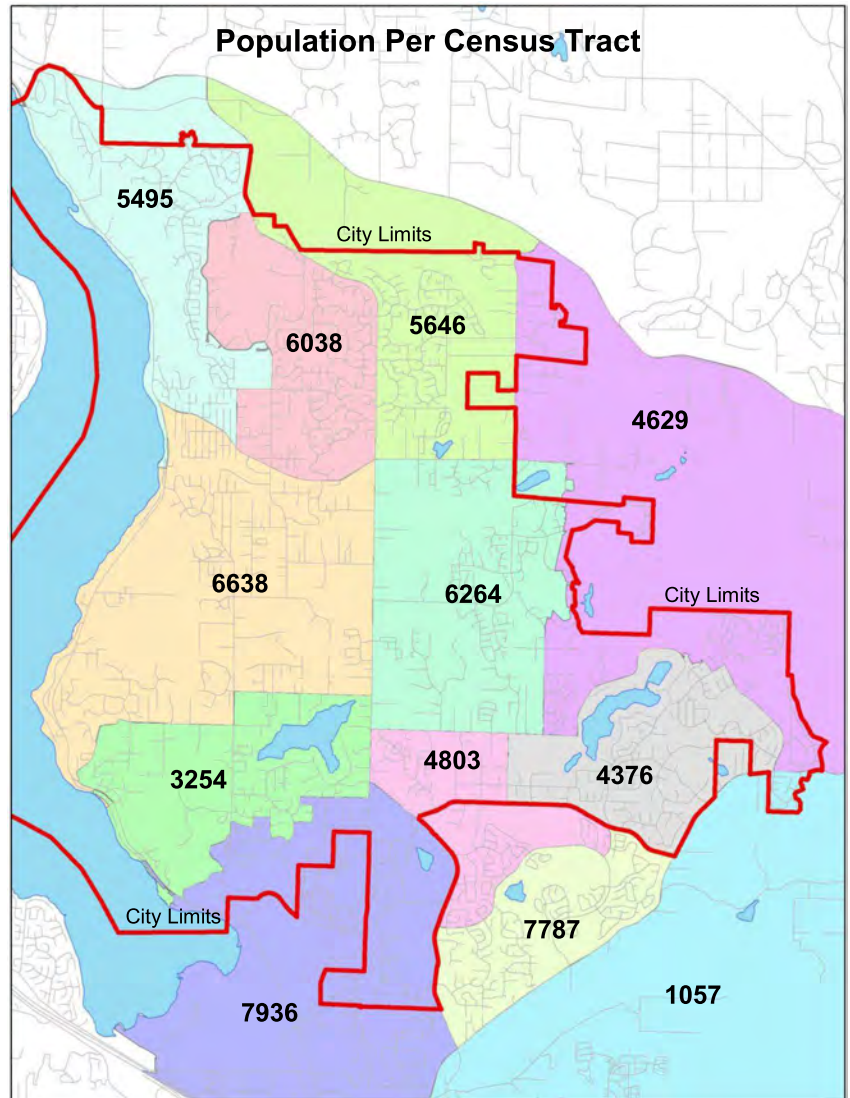
The City includes 15,154 households, with an average size of 3.01 people per household. The most common household type, as reported in the 2010 Census, was married couples with children (51.9 percent). Other types include nonfamily, or unrelated people sharing a home (14.8 percent), and single-person (11.4 percent).⁴ Figure 2.3 shows the population density in Sammamish.



Community Profile



Figure 2.3: U.S. Census Persons per Census Tract ⁵



Population Age

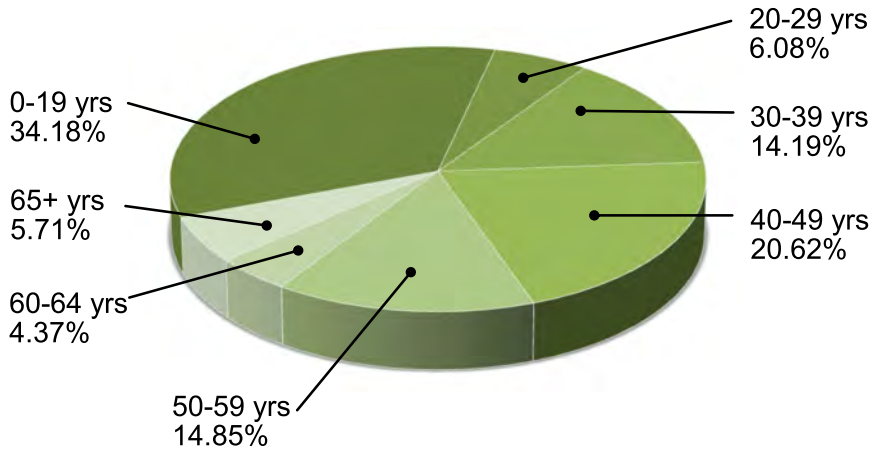
The median age of Sammamish residents was 37.6 in 2010, up from 35.3 in 2000, according to the United States Census. Nearly 21 percent of residents are 40-49 years of age, and older adults (65+) make up almost 6 percent of the Sammamish population. The population age range has remained proportionally very similar since the 2000 census. Overall, Sammamish remains a relatively young community, with 34 percent of the population under the age of 19. Figure 2.4 shows the population distribution by age of resident.





Community Profile

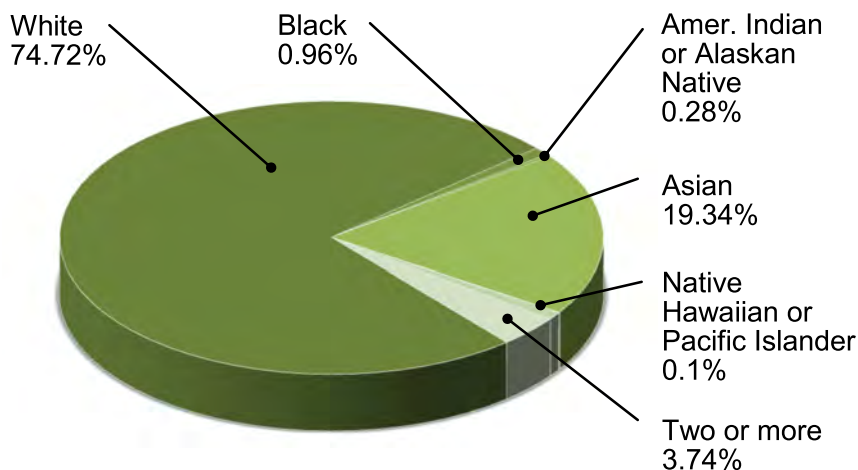
Figure 2.4: Age Distribution of Residents 2010 ⁶



Racial and Ethnic Diversity

The 2010 Census established the ethnic makeup of the city as 74.7 percent white, 19.3 percent Asian, 3.7 percent two or more races, 1.0 percent black, 0.9 percent some other race, and 0.1 percent native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Nearly 25.3 percent of Sammamish's residents identified themselves in this survey as a race other than white, compared with only 9.9 percent in the 2000 census—a dramatic shift. See Figure 2.5.

Figure 2.5: City of Sammamish Diversity 2010 Census ⁷



Community Profile



Economic Well-Being

Sammamish's median household income during 2008-2010 was \$139,065. By comparison, King County's median household income for the same period was \$67,711. Nearly 70 percent of residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher (42 percent have a bachelor's degree and 28 percent have a graduate or professional degree).⁸

Natural Resource Characteristics

Situated between a lakeshore and Cascade foothills, Sammamish encompasses a wide range of natural habitats, including coniferous forests, shoreline habitats, wetlands, and upland corridors. A wet, temperate climate lends itself to lush undergrowth and large tree stands. Sammamish is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, coyote, black bear, mountain beaver, and many varieties of birds. Bald eagles and great blue herons can be seen along the shores of Lake Sammamish. Fish populations include kokanee salmon, sockeye salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout.

A total of 11.8 miles of shoreline fall within Sammamish city limits, presenting opportunities for water-related recreation pursuits as well as a need for conservation efforts. The shoreline areas confer many advantages, including aesthetic enjoyment, recreational activities, and numerous environmental benefits.

Three large lakes are found within Sammamish city limits and play a key role in the parks and recreation system: Lake Sammamish, Beaver Lake, and Pine Lake.

Lake Sammamish

Though it is 7 miles long and 1.5 miles wide and defines the city's western edge, Lake Sammamish is not readily accessible within city limits. The City owns 2,750 feet of waterfront property on the lake, at Sammamish Landing. This park was opened to the public in 2012. Lake Sammamish State Park, at the southeast tip of the lake, is outside Sammamish city limits. To the north, in Redmond, Marymoor Park and Idylwood Park also provide public access to Lake Sammamish.





Community Profile

Beaver Lake

Beaver Lake covers 79 acres and is a part of a chain of three lakes: Long Lake, Beaver Lake, and Little Beaver Lake. Two city-owned parks lie on the lake's western shore: Beaver Lake Park and Beaver Lake Preserve. Both provide public access to the lake, although access at Beaver Lake Preserve is undeveloped. The state Department of Fish & Wildlife operates a public boat launch on the eastern shore of Beaver Lake.

Pine Lake

Pine Lake offers the only designated swimming beach in Sammamish, with lifeguard services provided by the City. Covering about 85 acres, the lake is a popular spot for recreation and fishing.



Watershed, Hydrology, and Critical Areas

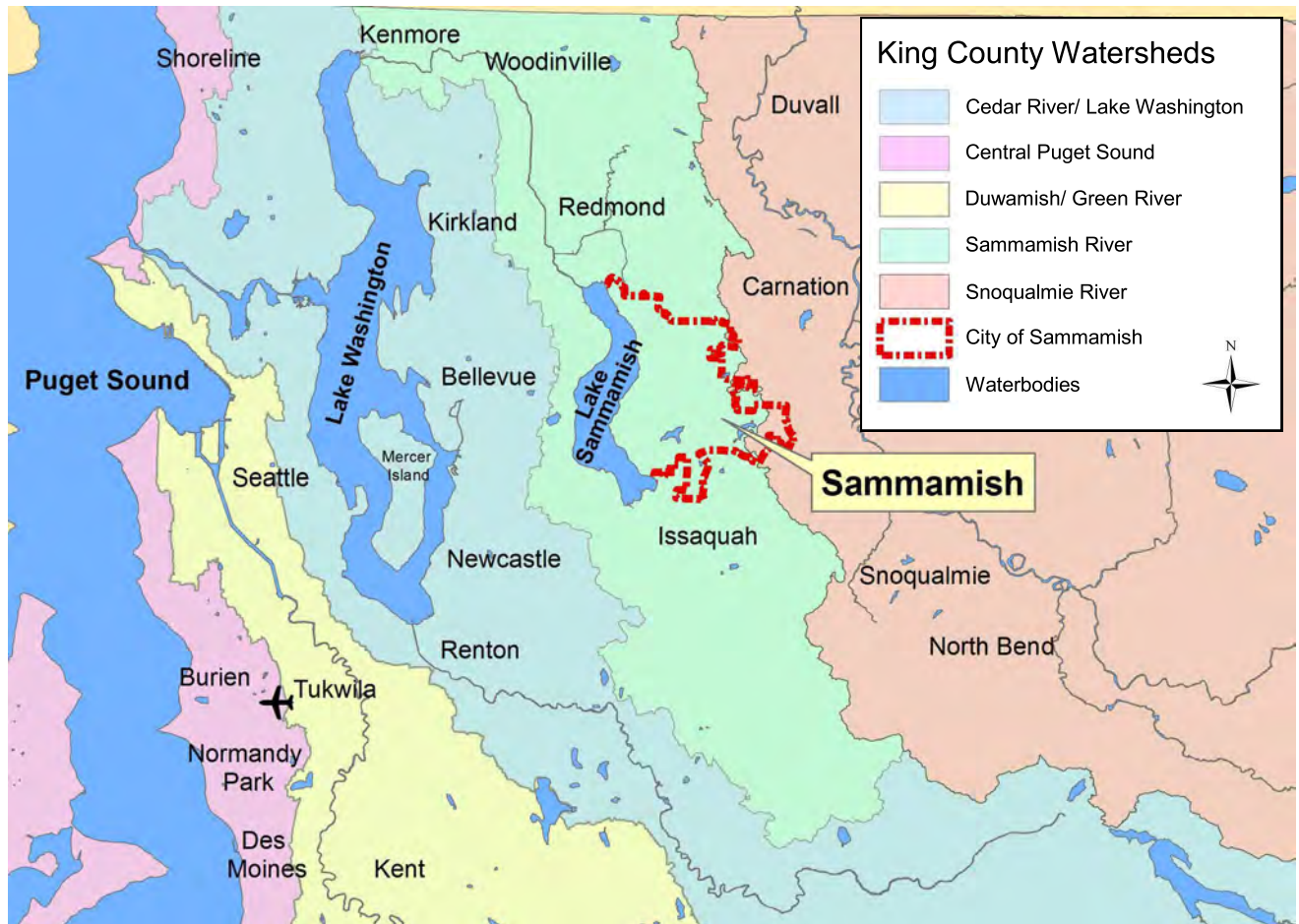
The Sammamish watershed includes portions of the cities of Sammamish, Everett, Lynnwood, Kenmore, Brier, Mill Creek, Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Bellevue, and Issaquah as well as unincorporated areas of King and Snohomish counties. The watershed is part of the Cedar-Sammamish River Water Resource Inventory Area known as WRIA 8. It includes two major river systems, the Cedar and Sammamish, as well as Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington, Lake Union, and numerous tributaries to each. Six major stream systems totaling 42 miles are found within the City: Laughing Jacobs Creek, Zaccuse Creek, Ebright Creek, George Davis Creek, Kamin Creek, and Pine Lake Creek. These systems support vast biodiversity and significant wetland habitats.



Community Profile



Figure 2.6: King County Watersheds Map⁹



Farmland and Forests

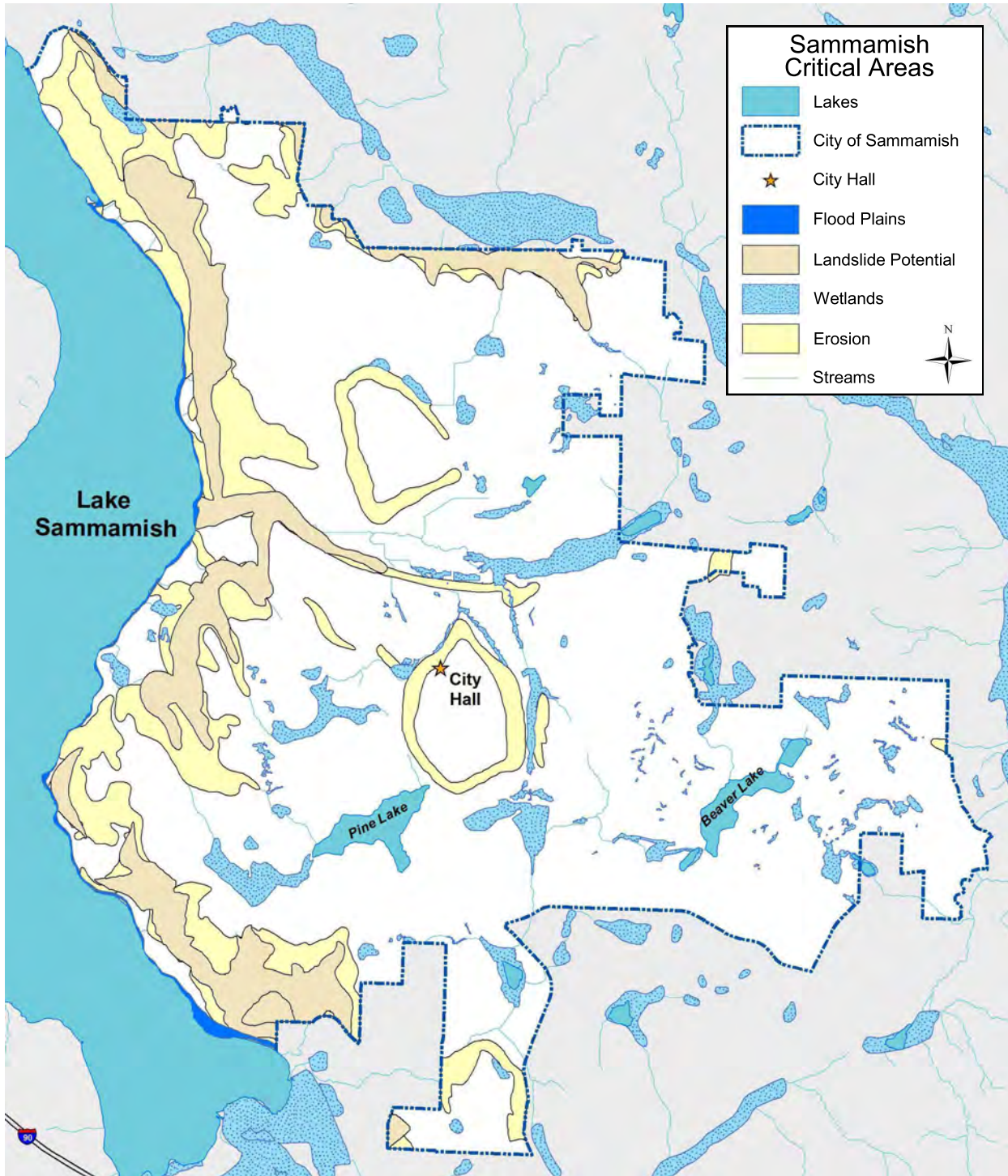
For many generations, Sammamish was a mix of farmland and forests. Orchards and dairy and chicken farms dotted the landscape. Some of these included the Sween family's 300-acre poultry farm, the Erikson farm, and the Mystic Lake Dairy.¹⁰ Today, most of those farms have become subdivisions, supporting an increasing population and creating a more urban environment. Ties to the city's rural roots remain visible. The plateau has several horse farms as well as U-pick farms in and near city limits offering pumpkins, corn, flowers, and trees. The plateau still contains forested areas, including large stands of cedar and fir along with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. Other vegetation in the area is typical of the Pacific Northwest, including lush undergrowth.





Community Profile

Figure 2.7: City of Sammamish Critical Areas Map ¹¹



Community Profile



History of Sammamish Parks and Recreation



Before the City was incorporated, public parks and recreation programs and services in Sammamish were provided by King County and a variety of private and nonprofit agencies. As more people moved to the area, infrastructure could not support the growing population. Improvements to roads, parks, and other public amenities were being deferred. Residents, with an interest in receiving the benefits and amenities of an incorporated city, rallied together to get the City of Sammamish officially incorporated on August 31, 1999.

Shortly after incorporation, King County transferred three parks (Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, and NE Sammamish Park) to the City of Sammamish. The City hired a recreation manager to oversee these parks and to perform other recreation duties. A need for a larger parks and recreation team became apparent as residents expressed desire for more amenities such as neighborhood gathering places and citywide special events. By 2002, the department included a recreation manager, park planner, recreation coordinator, and a maintenance supervisor with a crew of two full-time staff members and two seasonal employees.



In 2003, King County transferred Beaver Lake Park to the City of Sammamish, and two additional full-time employees were hired to maintain it. By the end of that year, the maintenance staff was managing more than 120 acres of land.

In 2004, the City and two school districts (the Issaquah School District and the Lake Washington School District) signed interlocal agreements allowing for shared use of facilities for community and recreation purposes. Under the agreements, community sports fields were constructed at Eastlake High School in 2006 and at Skyline High School in 2007.

In 2005, the first annual kids noontime concert series kicked off, and a management plan was adopted for Beaver Lake Preserve. The department began managing Beaver Lake Lodge in 2006, hiring a facility coordinator to oversee the lodge, shelters, and field rentals. Also in 2006, staff moved into the new City Hall in the Sammamish Commons, and volunteers built the first phase of trails in Beaver Lake Preserve, assisted by the Washington Trails Association. The first Fourth on the Plateau event was held, to great success.





Community Profile

In 2007, Ebright Creek Park and the Sammamish Commons Skate Park were completed. A holiday season kickoff event was inaugurated, and the City Council approved the first rental policies for facilities, fields, and shelters. The City hired a volunteer coordinator to establish and administer a volunteer program within the City. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department hired a deputy parks director to help manage its growing workload.

In 2008, the City Council adopted a master plan for East Sammamish Park. The department completed the city's first off-leash dog park in Beaver Lake Park and renovated the picnic shelters in Pine Lake Park. The first annual Teen Fest was held at Sammamish Commons in partnership with the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club. The department added rental office hours at City Hall, and a recycling program was started at the Beaver Lake Lodge. Volunteers from Issaquah and Lake Washington school districts restored the Sammamish Commons ravine by removing invasive vegetation and planting native plants. Boy Scouts volunteered to improve trails and remove invasive plants at Beaver Lake Park.

In 2009, the department undertook major renovations of the dock and shoreline in Pine Lake Park, constructed a parking lot and improved trails in the lower Sammamish Commons, and renovated the Sween House. A management plan was adopted for Evans Creek Preserve. Maintenance staff resurfaced the off-leash dog park with pet-friendly materials, made improvements to Beaver Lake Lodge, and replaced the restroom roof at Pine Lake. Because so many volunteers were involved in so many projects, the existing volunteer coordinator position moved under the Parks Department. This brought the total number of full-time staff to 15, where it remains in 2012. The City celebrated its first decade of incorporation and unveiled Sammamish Days as a new community event.

In 2010, master plans were adopted for Beaver Lake Park and Sammamish Landing. The first phase of Evans Creek Preserve was designed and permitted, and design work started on Sammamish Landing. Coordination began between the City and the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club in preparation of the new recreation center, and background research was conducted on community centers.



Community Profile



In 2011, the City opened two new parks, Evans Creek Preserve and SE 8th Street Park. The Recreation Center also opened, which is a city-owned facility managed by the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club. A feasibility study was conducted for a community and aquatic center, and construction of picnic shelters, a seating lawn, and trails took place at Sammamish Landing. The department gained a project manager, transferred from the Public Works department, to assist with facility projects. One of these facility projects includes the Beaver Lake Lodge, which was remodeled with new flooring, lighting upgrades and reconfiguration of the kitchen and storage area.

Sammamish Parks and Recreation Today

At the end of its first decade, the City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department is managing 15 parks, preserves, and recreation facilities totaling 490 acres of land. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for planning, marketing, managing, and maintaining parks, trails, open space, programs, and facilities, as well as overseeing land acquisition, grant preparation, and park policies.

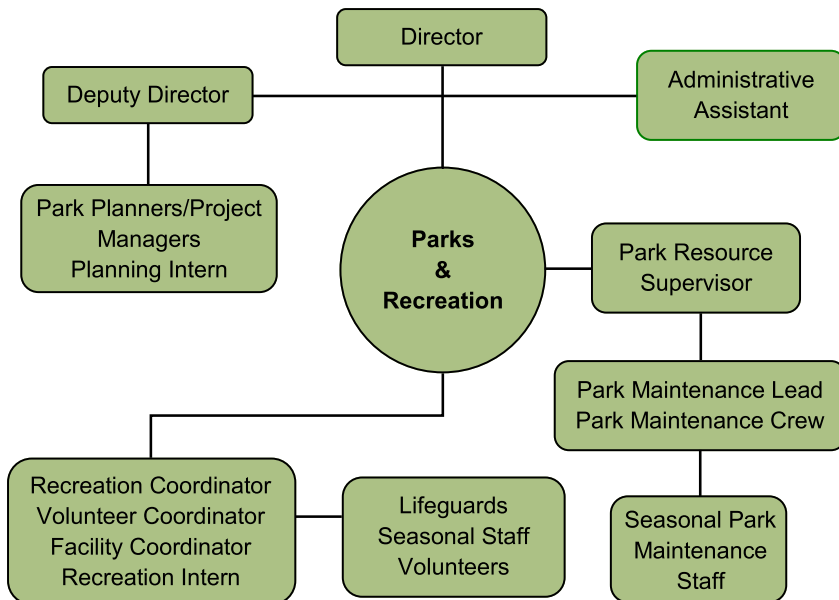
The department includes 15 full-time staff members, two interns, 12 seasonal park-maintenance staff, four seasonal facility staff, and 12 summer lifeguards. The City is now the single-largest provider of parks and recreation services in Sammamish. These services include administration, planning and development, wellness, culture and arts, recreation programming, park and facility maintenance, and volunteer services.





Community Profile

Figure 2.8: Parks and Recreation Organization Chart



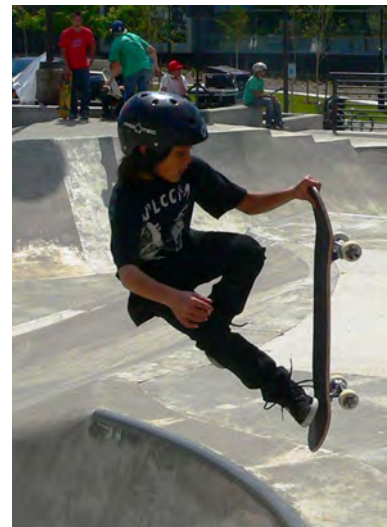
Besides the staff, two commissions and one board provide support and advocacy for parks and recreation services in Sammamish. Those are the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Commission, and the Sammamish Youth Board.

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission, formed shortly after incorporation in 1999, is a nine-member advisory group to the City Council. The Council appoints commissioners to four-year terms. The commission meets monthly to provide guidance and give recommendations on park policies. Commissioners also provide support for events and special projects.

Arts Commission

The Arts Commission is a seven-member advisory group to the City Council. Formed in July 2003, the body provides guidance on policies and matters promoting public art. Appointed by the City Council, commissioners meet monthly to discuss community art, grants, and policies, and to plan the rotating art displays in City Hall. Commission members participate in the programs and events that they sponsor.



Community Profile



Sammamish Youth Board

The Sammamish Youth Board, formed in 2001, is composed of local high school and middle school students who are appointed by the City Council for one-year terms. The Youth Board serves as an advisory group to the Council on policy matters related to youth in Sammamish. The board also oversees community-service projects throughout the year.

Conclusion

The City of Sammamish has many unique traits that make it distinguishable from other Washington cities. Demographic factors including population, the large number of youth, and the increasing diversity all play a key role in planning for the future of parks and recreation.

Notes

1. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.
2. Dougherty, Phil. "The Sammamish Story." The Sammamish Heritage Society.
<http://www.sammamishheritage.org/sammamish.html>.
3. Washington State Office of Financial Management. April 1, 2011 official population estimates.
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/finalpop.pdf>.
4. U.S. Census Bureau. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 for Sammamish, Washington.
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5. King County GIS Data Portal, 2010 Census Tracts: All Race All Ages Data Table. King County GIS Center.
<http://www5.kingcounty.gov/gisdataportal/Default.aspx>.
6. U.S. Census Bureau.
7. U.S. Census Bureau.
8. U.S. Census Bureau.
9. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.
10. Baggette, Vicki. "Mystic Lake/Dairy.", Brennan, Michelle. "Erikson Farm.", Dougherty, Phil. "Sween Farm.", The Sammamish Heritage Society.
<http://sammamishheritage.org/history.html#residences>.
11. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.





Parks **3**



Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the parks and open spaces in and near Sammamish and describes the park classification system.

Parks were established in the Sammamish area long before the City existed. Pine Lake Park was a resort from the early 1900s until King County purchased it in the 1960s.¹ Beaver Lake Park was also the site of a lakeside resort. Its ownership changed a few times before the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle purchased it in the '60s and called it Camp Cabrini. In 1985 King County purchased the camp for a park.² East Sammamish and NE Sammamish parks were also managed by King County when this area was rural land. These parks became the foundation of the City's current park system.

Inventory

Sammamish's park system has 15 parks, preserves, and facilities totaling 490 acres of park land. Within these parks are 11 picnic shelters, nine playgrounds, six athletic fields, five multiuse sports fields, five tennis courts, three docks, a skate park, an off-leash dog area, and a spray park. Over the past 12 years, the City has cared for and improved the parks transferred from King County as well as expanded the parks system significantly.

Growth of the parks system has come from transfers and purchases. King County transferred Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, NE Sammamish Park, Beaver Lake Park, and thirty acres within Soaring Eagle Park. The City of Redmond transferred five parcels of Sammamish Landing to the City of Sammamish. Purchases were made outright with city funds or with the aid of grants through Conservation Futures and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Generous private donations allowed the City to acquire Sammamish Landing, a portion of Beaver Lake Preserve, and the SE 8th Street property. Partnerships with school districts led to the development of community sports fields at Eastlake High School and Skyline High School.

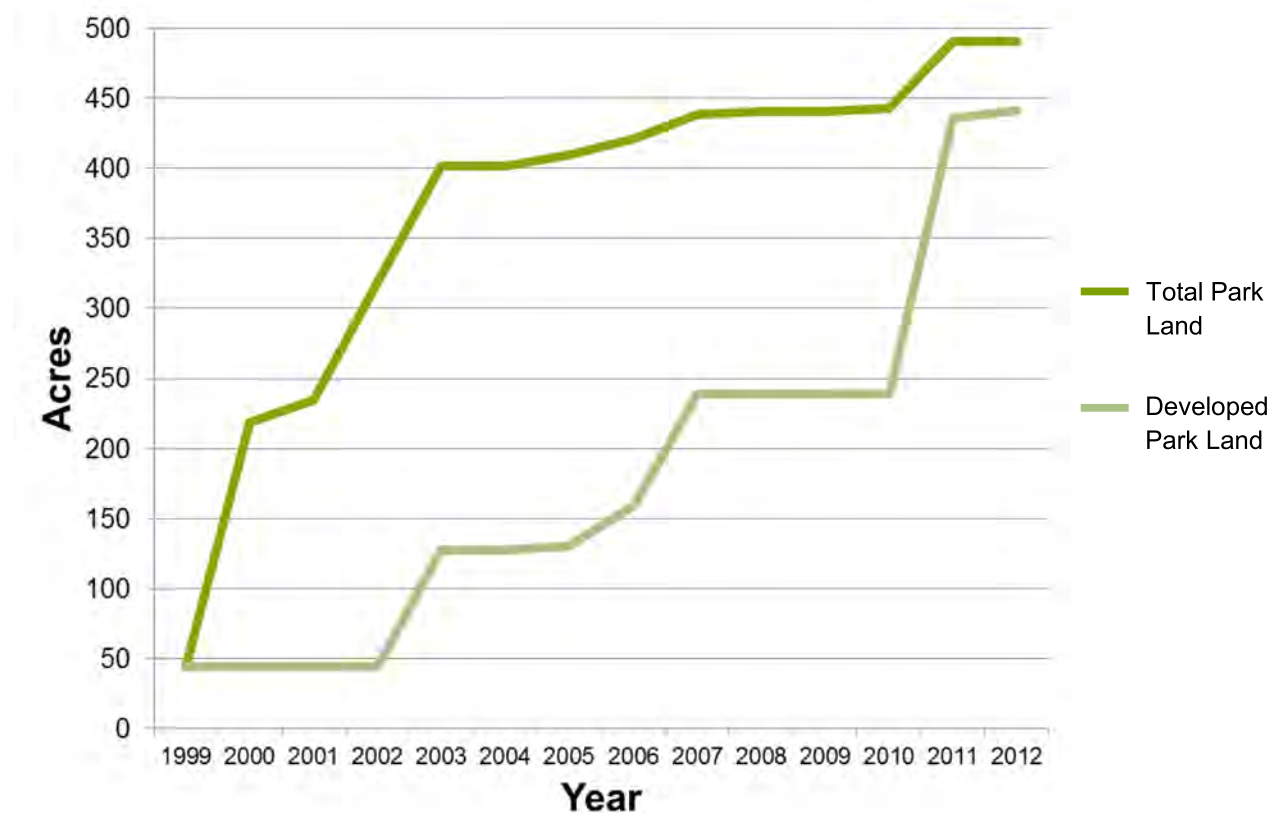




Parks

The growth of the parks system since incorporation has been tremendous, increasing from just 44 acres in 1999 to 490 acres in 2012. See Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Sammamish Park Acreage Since Incorporation



Up until 2010, nearly half of the park land was held as undeveloped open space. In 2011, however, the opening of Evans Creek Preserve, Sammamish Landing and SE 8th Street Park nearly doubled the amount of developed park land, bringing the total to 442 acres. An additional 48 acres remains as undeveloped open space.



Figure 3.2 provides a list of Sammamish parks along with corresponding acreage. Detailed information for each of these parks, including the location, list of amenities, and an aerial photo is provided in Appendix C.



Figure 3.2: Sammamish Parks

City of Sammamish Parks	Acres
Beaver Lake Park	83
Beaver Lake Preserve	76
East Sammamish Park	19
Eastlake Community Fields	3
Ebright Creek Park	12
Evans Creek Preserve	179
Illahee Wetland Trail	8
NE Sammamish Park	6
Pine Lake Park	19
Recreation Center	2
Sammamish Commons Park	25
Sammamish Landing Park	8
SE 8th Street Park	16
Skyline Community Fields	4
Thirty Acres Park (Soaring Eagle)	30
Total	490



Sammamish residents also use park resources outside of city limits. The county, the state, and the nonprofit Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) own neighboring land providing 3,566 acres for park and recreational use. Many of these parks and open spaces provide connections to regional features such as Cougar Mountain, Tiger Mountain, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway. For the purpose of this plan, only parks within one mile of the city limits are included in this inventory. A list of nearby parks is provided in Figure 3.3.





Parks

Figure 3.3 Parks within 1-Mile of Sammamish City Limits

King County Parks	Acres
Duthie Hill Park	120
East Lake Sammamish Trail	128
Evans Crest Natural Area	30
Grand Ridge Park	1285
Klahanie Park	64
Marymoor Park	479
Patterson Creek Natural Area	205
Soaring Eagle Park	627
Washington State Parks	
Lake Sammamish State Park	512
Forterra	
Hazel Wolf Wetlands	116
Total	3,566

Other park opportunities in Sammamish include private parks and schools.

Private Parks

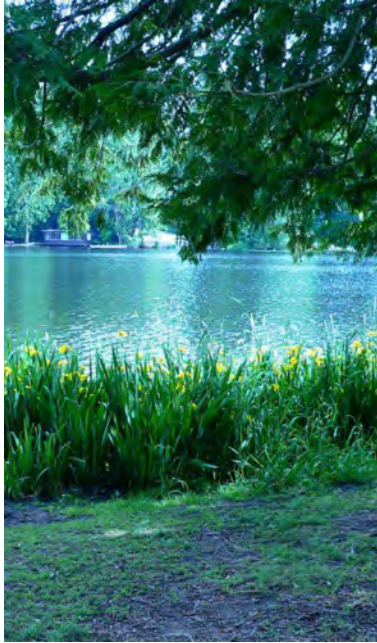
A private park is land within a subdivision that is owned and maintained by a community association (also known as a homeowners association or HOA). This type of park serves the subdivision and varies in size from a very small playground to many acres of sensitive area. Private parks may contain playgrounds, playfields, or walking trails, or they may be undeveloped open space.

Of the 5,862 acres that make up the City's community associations, 1,603 acres (27 percent) are dedicated to recreation, open space, or sensitive areas. Although the majority of this land is privately owned, it is still considered an important element of the parks system.

Schools

Sammamish is served by three public school districts: the Lake Washington School District, the Snoqualmie School District and the Issaquah School District. Together, they have 13 schools within city limits and four just outside city limits. Eastside Catholic, a private school, is also within Sammamish boundaries. Playgrounds and sports fields on school property are open to residents and fill many





of the same needs that parks do. Schools provide approximately 160 acres of park-like space in Sammamish. Most elementary schools have outdoor playground equipment, small grass or dirt play fields, basketball hoops, and markings for playground games such as hopscotch. These amenities are similar to those offered by a neighborhood park. Middle and high schools have the same kind of programmed sport fields common in community parks. The City has partnered with both school districts to upgrade athletic fields with synthetic turf and lights.

The City Park Classification System

Park classifications are used in the planning of new parks. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during master planning and construction design.

Several factors must be considered when classifying parks:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area, or community
- Suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost and effort of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs

To provide residents with diverse recreational experiences, the City's park system encompasses different types of parks, open space areas, and facilities. The following classifications have been identified for the Sammamish park system:

- Community park
- Neighborhood park
- Mini park
- Special-use park
- School/City partnership park
- Open space/natural area
- Trail





Parks

Park Classifications

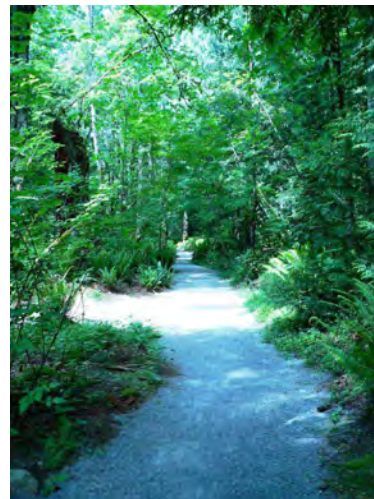
Community Park

Often the most-visited type of park in the City's system, a community park is typically 15-60 acres in size and serves neighborhoods in a two- to five-mile radius. Most visitors drive to the park. This type of park offers programmed activities as well as passive, unstructured recreation. Amenities may include athletic fields, skate parks, play courts, spray parks, swimming beaches, fishing piers, children's play areas, off-leash dog areas, individual and group picnic shelters, trails, natural areas, and community gardens. Athletic fields may be natural, synthetic turf, or a combination of surfaces, with or without field lighting. Because of the variety of recreation opportunities and the large number of people served, community parks require support facilities such as restrooms, parking lots, and maintenance facilities.



Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is typically 5-15 acres in size, serving primarily the residents of the immediate neighborhood—those within a half-mile radius. Topography and population density can influence the location of a neighborhood park. These parks offer both active and passive recreation on a limited scale, but they are used primarily for unstructured recreational activities. Amenities may include children's playgrounds, open space, trails, picnic areas, small facilities for active recreation, open fields, and gathering spaces. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking.



Mini Park

Also called pocket parks, mini parks are small parks on public or private land that offer green space, outdoor seating areas, small playgrounds (such as a tot lot), and sometimes artwork. Currently, the City does not have any mini parks. Because of their size and limited recreational opportunities, mini parks are not feasible for the City to develop at this time. However, many private subdivisions have developed private tot lots and small recreational spaces, typically a half acre to 5 acres in size.



Special-Use Park

A special-use park typically has a single purpose. Examples include a zoo, a golf course, a boat ramp, etc. Size and service area depend on use. There is no size limitation for special-use parks.

School/City Partnership Park

A school/city partnership park combines city and school resources to provide recreational amenities that benefit both the community and the school. Size and service area vary with each site. In general, elementary and middle schools provide resources similar to those of a neighborhood park, while high schools provide resources similar to those of a community park.



Open Space/Natural Area

Open space is land set aside to preserve natural resources and enhance livability and community character. Size and service area vary with each site. Open space supports passive and nature-based recreation as well as environmental education. Sites typically contain sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, and steep slopes, which also provide habitat for wildlife. Developed sites may include limited support facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Trails

This plan details trails within parks only. Trail systems that include sidewalks and bicycle lanes or anything in the right-of-way are addressed separately in the Trails, Bikeways, and Paths Plan.





Parks

City of Sammamish Parks are classified as follows:

Community Parks

Beaver Lake Park	83 acres
East Sammamish Park	19 acres
Pine Lake Park	19 acres
Sammamish Commons Park	25 acres
SE 8th Street Park	16 acres
<u>Thirty Acres Park (Soaring Eagle)</u>	<u>30 acres</u>
Total Community Parks	192 acres

Neighborhood Parks

Ebright Creek Park	12 acres
NE Sammamish Park	6 acres
<u>Sammamish Landing</u>	<u>8 acres</u>
Total Neighborhood Parks	26 acres

Special-Use Parks

Illahee Wetland Trail	8 acres
<u>Recreation Center</u>	<u>2 acres</u>
Total Special-Use Parks	10 acres

School/City Partnership Parks

Eastlake Community Fields	3 acres
<u>Skyline Community Fields</u>	<u>4 acres</u>
Total School/City Partnership Parks	7 acres

Open Space/Natural Areas

Beaver Lake Preserve	76 acres
<u>Evans Creek Preserve</u>	<u>179 acres</u>
Total Open Space	255 acres

TOTAL PARK ACREAGE 490 acres



Level of Service

What is Level of Service?

The parks level of service provides a benchmark to help determine how many parks and what kinds of parks are needed to meet the needs of the Sammamish community. A level of service definition is included in this chapter specifically to help satisfy a requirement of many granting agencies and to provide a method for calculating impact fees.



A Historical Look at Level of Service

In 1983, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the leading professional organization in the field, set a uniform standard for level of service at 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. In 1996, that standard was revised to allow each community to establish level of service recommendations customized to its individual characteristics. The association recommends defining levels that are “practical and achievable, provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout the community, and reflect the real-time demand of the citizens.” Although the “acres per thousands” standards are no longer used exclusively, a comparison of Sammamish park facilities to the national standards and to nearby municipalities is included in Appendix D.

Park Impact Fees and Level of Service

Rather than using park acreage per person, the City calculates parks level of service using an “investment per capita” model. In other words, level of service standards are calculated through the application of a formula that measures the overall park investment per person. This model allows the City to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and priorities instead of adhering to arbitrary ratios for each type of park facility. This calculation also serves as the basis for the park impact fee rate.

Sammamish authorized collecting impact fees for parks and recreation in 2006, when the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2006-207. Only new residential development incurs impact fees for park and recreational facilities. Revenue from impact fees is used for the capital cost of new public facilities, including land acquisition, site improvements, and construction as well as equipment and any necessary off-site improvements. The fee also pays for planning,





Parks

design, engineering, permits, financing, administrative expenses, and fees or mitigation cost.³

The Sammamish Impact Fee is applied based on the type of dwelling unit:

<u>Dwelling Unit</u>	<u>Fee per Unit</u>
Single-Family	\$2,681.41
Multi-Family	\$1,549.13
Mobile Home	\$1,410.69

These numbers help identify the additional amount of parks investment needed as the community grows. For example, the addition of 100 new single-family dwelling units would indicate a need for an additional \$268,141 in new park facilities. The impact fee model provides a method of collection for these fees as new homes are developed, providing a direct funding measure for new park facilities. A detailed analysis of the method of calculation for the park impact fee is included in Appendix E.



While the investment per capita model is intended to serve as a guideline for funding parks and recreation facilities, it is not intended to be a stand-alone measure of service needs. Many other variables may be considered when determining the appropriate level of investment in the parks system. For example, additional variables may include accessibility, size, amenities, etc. All these measures combined should be considered when making level of service decisions.

Geographic Equity as a Secondary Measure of Level of Service

A secondary measure of level of service is based on geography. This method analyses the location of existing facilities and helps identify where deficits may exist. The Sammamish standard is proposed at a half-mile radius for neighborhood parks and a two-mile radius for community parks. The map shown in Figure 3.4 highlights existing Sammamish parks and applies the geographic standard for level of service. Of note is the noticeable gap in the northeast quadrant of the City, which is one of the reasons this area has been identified for potential land acquisition for several years. Another gap is in the southwest corner of Sammamish, although this gap is less significant due to the close proximity of Lake Sammamish State Park.





Parks

Recent parks survey results indicate that over 60% of respondents were willing to walk at least one mile to a park facility. The map shown in Figure 3.5 depicts a one-mile radius for all parks, city and non-city-owned, in and near Sammamish.

This preliminary analysis indicates that nearly all Sammamish residents have a park located within one-mile of their home. This analysis does not, however, ensure walkability as the one-mile radius is based on how the crow flies, not the actual direction of travel. Further study will be required to better understand walkability in Sammamish.

Geographic equity is a relatively new standard of measurement, and the mechanics and applicability are still being tested nationwide. Therefore, this information is included for reference only and will be further defined in future iterations of the PRO Plan.

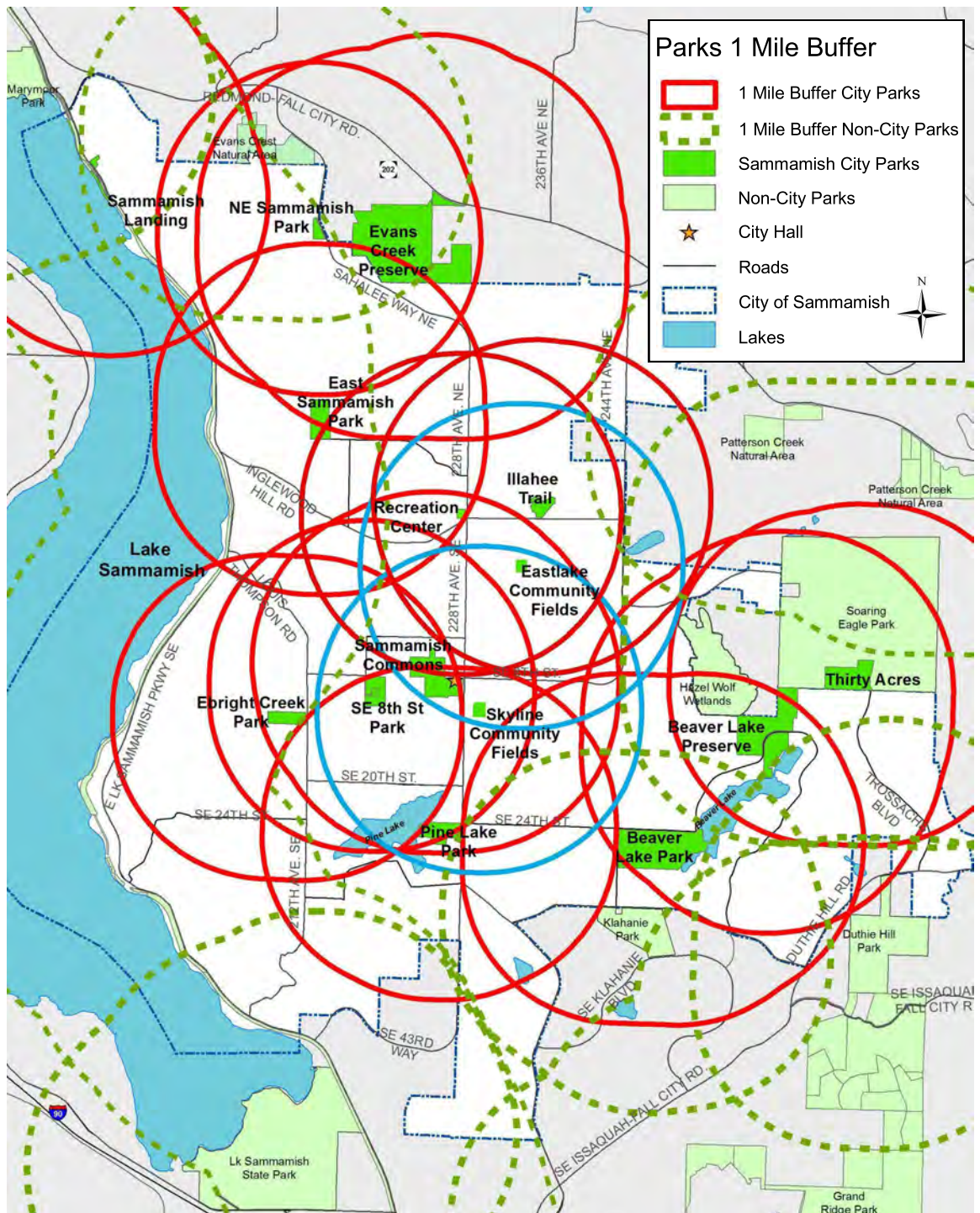
Level of Service and the Future of the Parks System

After a decade of considerable growth and a ten-fold increase in park acreage, the question is now being asked: what is the right size of the Sammamish parks system? How much park land is enough? Can you ever have enough preserved land? While the level of service analysis in this plan provides some insight, it doesn't provide a clear answer and additional study and analysis is needed.

Future decisions about the size of the parks system must take into account community demand and needs, anticipation of future growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces, and maintenance and operating costs to name just a few critical factors. To provide some guidance and a long-term look ahead, a series of goals and objectives were developed for the parks system and are included at the end of this chapter.



Figure 3.5: Geographic Equity Map—1 mile buffers





Maintenance and Operations

The Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the 490 acres of park land in Sammamish. This includes 22 acres of irrigated turf, 14 restrooms, 11 athletic fields, 11 picnic shelters, and nine playgrounds.

The objectives of the Parks M & O team are as follows:

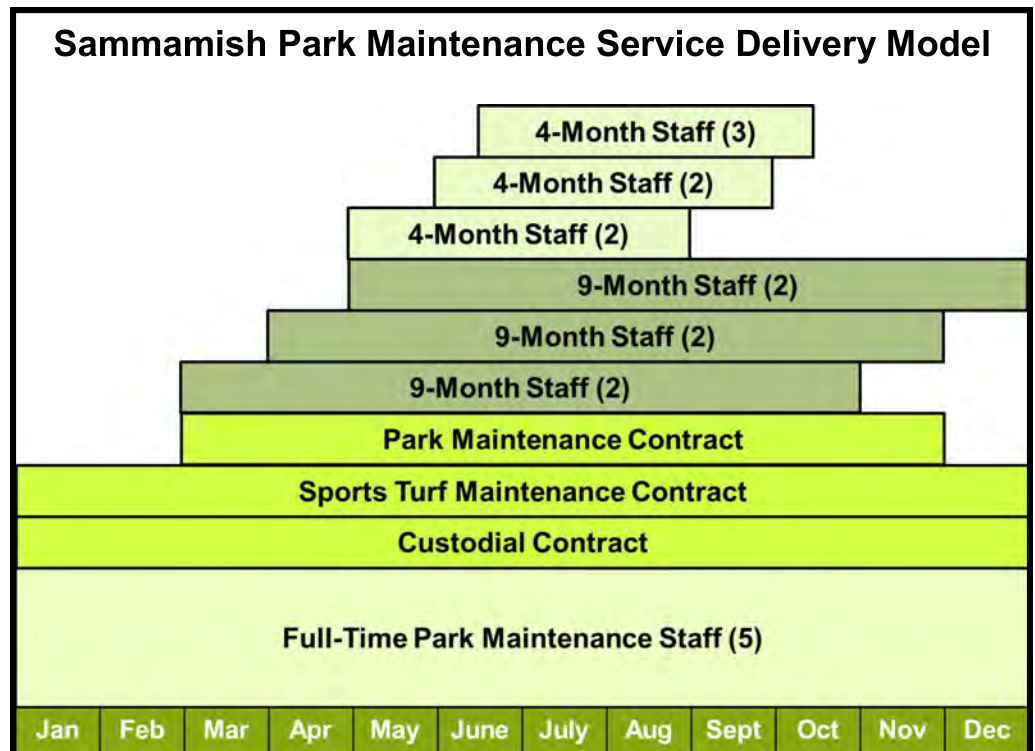
- Maintain and improve sites and facilities for the enjoyment of the community.
- Maintain landscapes, trails, open space, and facilities by controlling weeds, removing hazardous trees, cleaning, and repairing and replacing equipment.
- Provide support for recreation and volunteer events.
- Maintain and update park maintenance plans.
- Coordinate with park planning to ensure efficient park design.
- Provide athletic field maintenance and preparation for sports teams and tournament play.
- Regularly inspect and maintain playground equipment to ensure current safety standards are met.
- Manage contracts for professional services.

The Parks M & O Division shares resources with the Public Works Maintenance and Operations Division and operates from two locations. Its primary location is a shop on 244th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 18th Street. This building houses the majority of the division's personnel, equipment, and supplies. A satellite shop is located in Beaver Lake Park, at 25005 SE 24th St.

One of the reasons Sammamish has been able to maintain high standards of maintenance, while keeping maintenance costs low is through a blended use of full-time staff, seasonal staff, and contracted staff to perform maintenance services. See Figure 3.6.



Figure 3.6: Park Maintenance Service Delivery Model



The Parks M&O team includes five full-time staff members in addition to a parks resource coordinator. Approximately 13 seasonal positions are filled in 4-month and 9-month durations, which are staggered throughout the year.

The Parks M & O team manages several contracts for professional services within the parks. The three main contracts are for park maintenance, custodial services, and synthetic turf maintenance. Specialty maintenance services for electrical repairs, HVAC maintenance, plumbing, tree services, pressure washing, and hydro-seeding are also provided by contract. In addition to trained staff and contracted services, volunteer groups occasionally help with maintenance tasks in many of the parks.

From 44 Acres to 490 Acres: Park Maintenance Realities

A ten-fold increase in park acreage in just 12-years is an amazing accomplishment. But, the growth of the parks system has not been





Parks

without its challenges. As park acreage has increased, so too has the cost of maintenance. Figure 3.7 provides a 5-year history of actual maintenance expenditures, including total amount spent per acre.

Figure 3.7: Five-Year History of Park Maintenance Expenditures

Year	5-Year History of Park Maintenance Expenditures					Budget
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Actual Expenditures	\$1,448,932	\$1,523,309	\$1,375,911	\$1,550,230	\$1,525,526	\$1,661,500
Total Acres Developed Park Land	239	239	239	239	239+	442
Total Spent per Developed Acre	\$6,062	\$6,374	\$5,757	\$6,486	\$6,387	\$3,759

Park maintenance expenditures have held steady over the past five years, with the exception of 2009 when there was a slight decrease. This decrease was due to a management staff shortage, which prevented us from executing several maintenance contracts that year. Once staffing levels were restored in 2010, the contracts were also restored.

The 2012 park maintenance budget was increased in anticipation of opening three new parks at the end of 2011, including the 179 acre Evans Creek Preserve. In 2012 the anticipated maintenance investment per developed acre is significantly lower than the past five years. This level of expenditure may not be sufficient to maintain the current park maintenance service levels and should be evaluated during future budget cycles.

Understanding Park Maintenance Expenditures

Park maintenance services and tasks vary by type of park and amenity and for that reason there is no easy way to compare one park to another park or one park system to another park system. For example, the athletic fields at Beaver Lake Park require daily maintenance during the active sports season. On the other hand, the trails at Beaver Lake Preserve require only weekly inspections and monthly maintenance. Our new park features, such as the restroom



building at Ebright Creek Park, require significantly less maintenance than our older structures like the restroom building at Pine Lake Park.

One way to analyze park maintenance costs is to the compare cost of maintenance per acre to other jurisdictions. Figure 3.8 provides a comparison of maintenance cost per acre for five eastside cities.

Figure 3.8: Comparison of 2011 Park Maintenance Expenditures per Acre

	Issaquah	Sammamish	Redmond	Mercer Island	Kirkland
2011 Park Maintenance Expenditures*	\$1,769,574	\$1,526,526	\$4,900,000	\$1,963,657	\$3,587,396
Total Park Acreage**	1,680	460	1,344	485	554
Cost per Acre	\$1,053	\$3,319	\$3,647	\$4,049	\$6,474

* Actual 2011 park maintenance expenditures shown if known at time of publication.

** Includes developed, undeveloped and open space park lands. Sammamish maintenance expenditures include facility maintenance (Beaver Lake Lodge, Recreation Center, etc.) whereas other cities do not. All other cities listed include trail maintenance, whereas the City of Sammamish does not.



While Sammamish ranks among the lowest in terms of park maintenance cost per acre, this is generally not a reliable comparison. For example, this analysis does not take into account the different types of park land: passive open space parks active parks. Furthermore, the type of park and the amenities in each park require different levels of maintenance and thus incur different maintenance costs.





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A more useful tool for park maintenance analysis is the comparison of annual park maintenance investment per capita as shown in Figure 3.9.

Figure 3.9: Comparison of Park Maintenance Expenditures per Capita

	Sammamish	Kirkland	Issaquah	Mercer Island	Redmond
Population	46,940	80,836	27,160	22,699	54,144
2011 Park Maint. Expense*	\$1,526,526	\$3,587,396	\$1,769,574	\$1,963,657	\$4,900,000
Includes Facilities	Yes	No	No	No	No
Includes Trails	No	Yes - 10 miles	Yes - 14 miles	Yes - 4.7 miles	Yes - 31 miles
\$ Per Capita	\$33	\$44	\$65	\$87	\$90

* Actual 2011 park maintenance expenditures shown if known at time of publication.

The Sammamish park maintenance investment per capita is lower, and in some cases much lower, than neighboring eastside cities. The City of Issaquah is investing nearly double the amount per capita, but they are also maintaining 1,680 acres of park land (62 acres per capita) compared to 490 acres (10 acres per capita) in Sammamish.

It should be noted that investment per capita is not an exact comparison. Sammamish park maintenance expenditures also include facility maintenance costs for the Beaver Lake Lodge, the Recreation Center, the Sween House, and other facilities. Other eastside cities do not include facility maintenance costs in their park maintenance budget. On the other hand, all of the other eastside cities maintain trail systems of variable lengths and Sammamish does not.

Park Maintenance Conclusions: It's Complicated

The preceding sections provided a closer look at park maintenance operations and costs and attempted to provide a comparison of Sammamish to other nearby cities. But, let's face it, it's complicated. Levels of park maintenance investment are unique to each jurisdiction and for that reason Sammamish will need to continue to



define acceptable park maintenance standards and corresponding levels of investment that meet the needs of the community.



Just like roads and other city infrastructure, investing in park system maintenance and improvements is essential to ensuring these assets are preserved for future generations. And while the increase in park maintenance expenditures has recently raised concern, the community support for the parks system and level of satisfaction with park appearance remains high.⁴

Planning for the Future/Identifying Park Needs

Based on the information provided above, a series of goals and objectives have been identified for the parks system. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer.

Goal – Areas of focus in the long-term

Objective – Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal

Action Item – Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate)

Parks Goal #1 (P.1): *Provide a network of parks, trails, athletic fields, and open spaces that delivers a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.*

Objective P.1.1: Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) access, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.

Action P.1.1.A: Provide trails and paths for people of all ages and abilities through ADA-accessible design by establishing a hierarchy of trail/path materials and grades.

Action P.1.1.B: Provide information about accessible parks, trails, and playgrounds to the public through marketing and on-site signage.

Action P.1.1.C: Develop a long-term ADA transition plan for all Sammamish parks to include updates to playgrounds and other highly-utilized park amenities.



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Objective P.1.2: Provide amenities at parks and open-space facilities such as restrooms, lighting, seating, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, and shelters when possible, feasible, and appropriate to extend hours of use and service quality.

Objective P.1.3: Ensure public safety at all Sammamish parks and recreation facilities through coordination of design and renovation with police, fire, and emergency response personnel, and through the utilization of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) techniques.

Objective P.1.4: Explore opportunities for additional off-leash dog parks in Sammamish.

Action P.1.4.A: Identify at least one option for a new dog park in Sammamish.

Action P.1.4.B: Develop recommendations for better enforcement of off-leash dog laws in city parks.

Parks Goal #2 (P.2): *Identify financing strategies for the development and operations of parks and recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.*

Objective P.2.1: Utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the parks system.

Objective P.2.2: Seek funding for new parks and facilities and renovations through a variety of sources including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, impact fees, grants, donations, bonds, or levies.

Objective P.2.3: Establish a pricing strategy for rented facilities that aligns with comparable market rates and supports cost recovery of maintenance and operations costs associated with those facilities.





Parks Goal #3 (P.3): *Enhance citywide planning for parks, athletic fields, trails, and open space.*

Objective P.3.1: Provide opportunities for public participation in the planning process for major park development and renovation projects.

Objective P.3.2: Complete additional research and analysis to help guide the development of secondary level of service standards.

Action P.3.2.A: Develop a “green space” map that identifies all public and private parks, open space, and trail opportunities in the city.

Action P.3.2.B: Complete a “walkability analysis” as part of the Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan update that identifies safe walkable routes to parks within 1/2 mile and 1 mile of each residence.

Action P.3.2.C: Prepare a population density and park distribution analysis.

Action P.3.2.D: Develop and conduct a statistically valid benchmarking survey that measures a key set of performance metrics related to parks services including satisfaction with the parks system, park usage, participation in outdoor activities, and priorities for maintenance and capital investment.



Objective P.3.3: Develop and adopt a park classification system.

Action P.3.3.A: Classify all Sammamish park lands and develop a corresponding level of service (LOS) standard for appropriate classifications.

Objective P.3.4: Adopt a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) every two years, off-cycle from the adoption of the biennial budget.

Action P.3.4.A: Update the CIP as part of the six -year PRO Plan Update. (2012)





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Objective P.3.5: Inventory and map all park lands, open spaces, and trails. Include lists of all park amenities, trail easements, and public spaces.

Objective P.3.6: Establish, adopt, or update master plans for all parks in conjunction with public participation to guide all major park development and achieve cohesive design and efficient phasing of projects. Develop multiyear (10 to 20 year) plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.

Action P.3.6.A: Complete a master plan for the SE 8th Street Park properties.

Action P.3.6.B: Complete a master plan for the Soaring Eagle Park 30-acre property.



Objective P.3.7: Incorporate green building practices into park design and construction, including green demolition and disposal practices, use of local and recycled products when feasible, and incorporation of low-impact development techniques (such as green roofs, solar solutions, etc.).

Action P.3.7.A: Incorporate the sustainable sites initiative principles into park design and construction.

Objective P.3.8: Use parks and recreation staff, when feasible and appropriate, to provide project cost savings by designing, managing, and constructing capital projects in-house, and making minor repairs and other park improvements.

Objective P.3.9: Plan non motorized trail systems for pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the City and connect adjoining communities through regional linkages.

Action P.3.9.A: Inventory all trail connections – identify existing trails and connectivity gaps.



Action P.3.9.B: Update the Trails, Bikeways and Paths (TBP) Plan every six years or as needed.

Action P.3.9.C: Identify trail easements granted to the City but not currently in use.

Objective P.3.10: Promote safe trail use and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other trail users.

Action P.3.10.A: Implement trail signage plans based on regional design standards.

Action P.3.10.B: Ensure safe road crossings at designated locations.

Action P.3.10. C: Establish public awareness programs for the use, safety, and maintenance of trails.

Note: A detailed and expanded goals and objectives section is included in the **Sammamish Trails, Bikeways and Paths (TBP) Plan** and not repeated here.

Parks Goal #4 (P.4): *Acquire and develop parks and recreation land, facilities, and open space areas to meet the needs of the Sammamish community.*

Objective P.4.1: Analyze system wide park needs and develop criteria for acquisition of new park land and facilities.

Action P.4.1.A: Investigate the acquisition of land suitable for a community park in underserved areas of the City.

Action P.4.1.B: Acquire the King County “Overlook Property” to establish a future connection to Evans Creek Preserve.

Action P.4.1.C: Establish criteria to help guide park land acquisition decisions. Criteria to include: alignment with parks and recreation vision, mission, and values; equitable distribution of geographic resources; cost of development; estimated maintenance and operations costs of new land and facilities; and, the benefits and potential services of the acquired land.

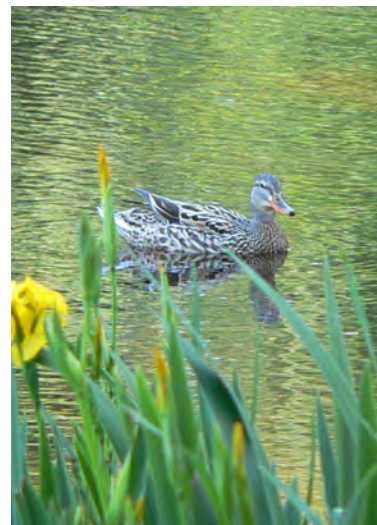


Parks

Objective P.4.2: Utilize the resources of national, regional, state, and local conservation organizations, corporations, non profit associations, and benevolent entities to identify and partner in the acquisition of land for park and recreation needs.

Objective P.4.3: Work with conservation groups and the private sector to acquire, conserve, and manage open space land through management practices, donations, bargain sales, or dedication.

Parks Goal #5 (P.5): *Maintain Sammamish parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, preservation of habitat and natural systems, and safety for park patrons.*



Objective P.5.1: Preserve existing forested parks and open space areas by implementing management practices to ensure the long-term health of the urban forest. Monitor tree health, forest structure, and the occurrence of invasive species in parks and open space areas throughout the city. Plant trees in parks and open space areas to improve the overall tree canopy.

Action P.5.1.A: Complete the Tree City USA requirements to become an official Tree City.

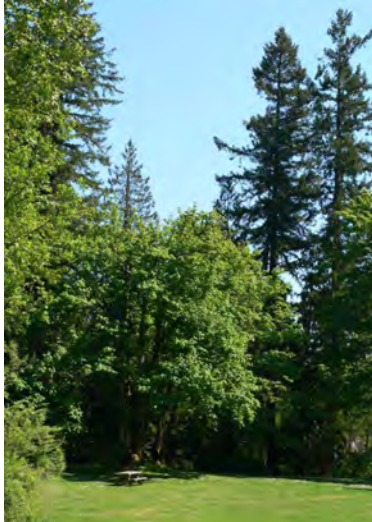
Action P.5.1.B: Complete a tree survey at Beaver Lake Park.

Objective P.5.2: Develop and implement regularly scheduled routine, reactive, and preventive maintenance programs to ensure effective use of maintenance resources.

Action P.5.2.A: Transition to a computer-based asset management system.

Action P.5.2.B: Develop a maintenance plan for every park and facility.





Objective P.5.3: Provide maintenance and operations support for recreation programs, special events, and other city-sponsored activities.

Objective P.5.4: Remove invasive vegetation within parks, open spaces, and sensitive lands by establishing protocols for natural weed-removal methods (i.e. goats), by using native and non-native plants to increase the diversity of plant species within parks, and by developing outreach and volunteer efforts to educate the community on invasive plants and proper removal strategies.

Action P.5.4.A: Establish park stewardship opportunities for citizens to participate in the stewardship of the park properties.

Action P.5.4.B: Develop an invasive plant map for all park lands.

Action P.5.4.C: Implement a plan for removal and monitoring of invasive plant species.

Objective P.5.5: Promote recycling at all Sammamish parks and recreation facilities.

Action P.5.5.A: Provide recycling receptacles in all parks by 2014.

Action P.5.5.B: Develop marketing materials to encourage user groups (i.e. sports teams) to support and promote Sammamish recycling efforts.

Objective P.5.6: Conserve and reduce water use through design and renovation of parks including minimizing wide expanses of green lawn to reduce irrigation needs, utilizing gray-water methods where appropriate and safe, and designing water features to recirculate.





Parks

Objective P.5.7: Incorporate sustainable practices into park maintenance procedures by reducing use of pesticides and herbicides, maintaining equipment in good working order, purchasing green maintenance equipment when feasible, replacing existing lighting fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures, and keeping systems (irrigation, lighting, HVAC, etc.) updated and fully functional for maximum performance and efficiency.

Action P.5.7.A: Track monthly utility consumption data for all parks and facilities.

Action P.5.7.B: Complete an energy audit at Beaver Lake Park.

Objective P.5.8: Continue to encourage, support, and facilitate volunteer programs that enhance park improvement and restoration efforts, promote environmental education, support ongoing maintenance efforts, and engage all members of the community.

Objective P.5.9: Coordinate and maintain procedures for identifying and managing open space, conservation, or preservation of lands through mechanisms such as zoning, donation, purchase of easements, or management strategies.

Objective P.5.10: Work with conservation groups and the private sector to acquire, conserve, and manage open-space land through management practices, donations, bargain sales, or dedication.

Objective P.5.11: Identify areas where native habitat should be improved to protect wildlife and maintain wildlife corridors through the incorporation of native plantings and access controls and removal of barriers to fish passage.





Objective P.5.12: Promote environmental learning through interpretive signage programs in City parks and preserves.

Action P.5.12.A: Implement interpretive signage program to promote unobtrusive wildlife and habitat viewing and learning at Ebright Creek Park, Evans Creek Preserve, Beaver Lake Preserve, and SE 8th Street Park.

Conclusion

What started as just a few parks transferred from King County over a decade ago has grown and developed into a mature community-wide parks system. Managing this system and serving as good stewards of the land requires coordination, vision, and guidelines for the future. The preceding sections have provided these guidelines and begun to identify the future priorities for the parks system. All of this information will serve as the foundation for the development of the Capital Improvement Program (Chapter 9).

Notes

1. Dougherty, Phil. "Tanska Family." The Sammamish Heritage Society. <http://www.sammamishheritage.org/tanska.html>.
2. Heeringa, Caleb, "Beaver Lake Lodge to get a makeover." The Sammamish Review. November 26, 2011. <http://www.sammamishreview.com/2011/11/26/beaver-lake-lodge-to-get-a-makeover>
3. Henderson, Young & Company. Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities, City of Sammamish, Washington, November 2, 2006.
4. Hebert Research, Inc. City of Sammamish PRO Plan Survey, July 2010. Pages 10-11.





Athletic Fields **4**

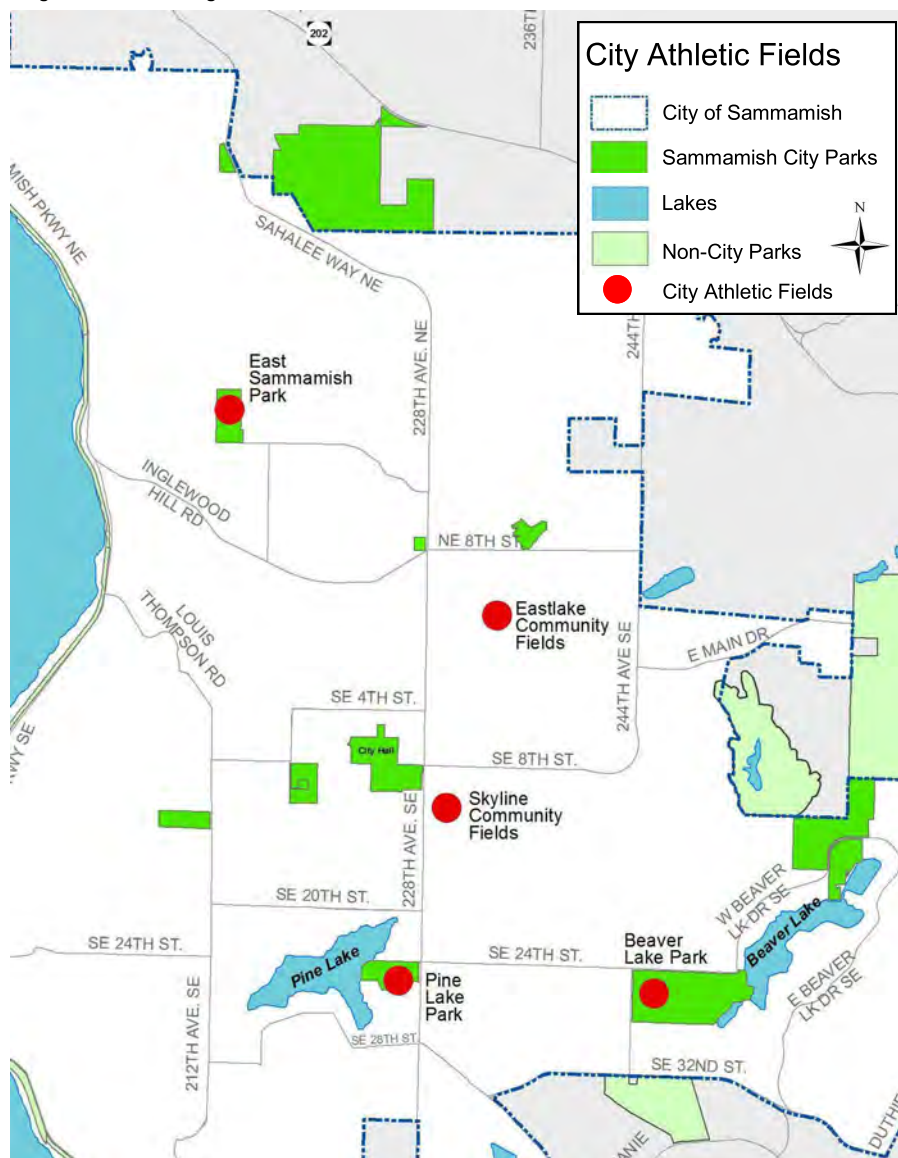
Athletic Fields



Introduction

Over the past several years, the number of athletic leagues in Sammamish has grown considerably, outstripping the current inventory of athletic fields. Land suitable for constructing new fields is scarce and expensive. This chapter examines current and future needs for athletic fields, specifically describing the condition of each athletic field and analyzing scheduling and usage patterns. The

Figure 4.1: Existing Sammamish Athletic Fields



chapter also identifies opportunities to increase field-use capacity by improving existing fields or constructing new ones.

Inventory

The City of Sammamish operates 11 athletic fields at five City of Sammamish facilities. This includes a mix of natural-turf (grass) athletic fields and synthetic-turf fields. All city fields are multipurpose, serving more than one sport and more than one age group. Figure 4.1 provides a map of the city's athletic fields.





Athletic Fields

A summary of athletic fields, including size, amenities, quality of playing surface, and sports played on each field is provided in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2 Existing City Athletics Field Inventory

	Beaver Lake Park	East Sammamish Park	Pine Lake Park	Eastlake Community Fields	Skyline Community Fields
Number of fields (by type)	3 baseball/softball fields with removable mounds	2 baseball/softball fields with removable mounds 1 soccer/lacrosse field	1 baseball/softball field 1 soccer/lacrosse field located in outfield of baseball field; not lined for lacrosse	2 multipurpose fields	2 multipurpose fields
Surface type	Natural grass	Natural grass	Natural grass	Synthetic turf	Synthetic turf
Base Paths	60' & 65'	60' & 70'	60' & 65'	60', 65', 70', 80' & 90'	60' & 65'
Outfield Distance	285'	285'	285'	325'	200'
Soccer Dimension	N/A	330' x 180'	330' x 180'	330' x 180'	330' x 180'
Sports played	Baseball Softball Soccer – modified use for younger ages only	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Cricket	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Football	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Football
Year built	Built in 1994 Renovated in 2001	Built in 1991	Built in the 1970s Renovated in 2004	Built in 2006	Built in 2007
Condition of playing surface	Fair	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Irrigation	Yes, April to October	Yes, April to October	Yes, April to October	N/A	N/A
Subsurface drainage	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Sports Lighting	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

In addition to City of Sammamish athletic fields, leagues also use other fields inside and outside of Sammamish city limits to meet league needs. In almost all cases, league boundaries overlap with another jurisdiction, most often to the north with the City of Redmond or to the south with the City of Issaquah. For the purposes of this plan, athletic fields beyond one mile from the city limits are not included in this inventory. A list of non-city athletic fields is provide in Figure 4.3.



Athletic Fields

Figure 4.3 Existing Non-City Athletics Field Inventory

Owner		Name	Field Type		Sport Type				
			Natural	Synthetic	Football*	Baseball	Softball	Lacrosse	Soccer
City of Issaquah		Central Park	3						
				2					
Issaquah School District	Elementary School	Cascade Ridge	1						
		Challenger	1						
		Discovery	2						
		Endeavour	1						
		Grand Ridge	1						
		Sunny Hills	1						
	Middle School	Beaver Lake	2						
		Pacific Cascade	2						
		Pine Lake	3						
	High School	Skyline		2					
Lake Washington School District	Elementary School	Crista McAuliffe	2						
		Elizabeth Blackwell	2						
		Louisa May Alcott	1						
		Margaret Mead	2						
		Rachel Carson	1						
		Samantha Smith	1						
	Middle School	Inglewood	3						
	High School	Eastlake		1					
			3						
King County		Klahanie Park	2						
		Marymoor Park		16	*rugby				
Private Parks		Eastside Catholic		1					
		Brook O'Connor	1						
		McWhirter	1						
WA State Parks			9						





Athletic Fields

All of the fields listed in figure 4.3 are shown on the map in Appendix F.

Sammamish Athletic Leagues

In total, 20 athletic leagues were identified as regular users of Sammamish athletic fields. A list by sport is provided in Figure 4.4. Eastlake Little League and Sammamish Little League are listed twice because they offer both baseball and softball.

Figure 4.4 Sammamish Athletic Leagues

Sport	Organization	Ages
Baseball	Eastlake Little League	Elementary & junior high
	Eastlake Sammamish Baseball Assoc.	Middle & high school
	Lake Sammamish Baseball Assoc.	Middle & high school
	Sammamish Little League	Preschool to high school
	Spartan Baseball Club	Elementary to high school
	Puget Sound Senior Baseball League	Adult
Softball	Eastlake Little League	Elementary & junior high
	Sammamish Little League	Preschool to high school
	Clean and Sober Softball Assoc.	Adult
Soccer	Issaquah Soccer Club	Preschool to high school
	Lake Washington Youth Soccer Assoc.	Elementary to high school
	Greater Seattle Soccer League	Adult
	Washington State Women's Soccer Assoc.	Adult
	Sammamish Soccer Club	Adult
Football	Eastlake Youth Football	Elementary & junior high
	Skyline Youth Football Assoc.	Elementary & middle
Lacrosse	Pacific Cascade Lacrosse Club	Elementary to high school
	Eastside Crusaders Youth Lacrosse	Elementary to middle school
	Eastlake Lacrosse	Elementary to high school
	ISD Women's Lacrosse Club	High School
	Skyline Lacrosse	Elementary to high School
	Issaquah Youth Lacrosse	High school



Understanding the Need

Anecdotally, we have known for many years that demand for athletic fields exceeds the supply. The challenge is quantifying the need to develop a capital improvement program for athletic fields. Complicating the analysis is the fact that fields accommodate multiple sports and multiple leagues and operate in multiple playing seasons.



Athletic Fields



Needs of Sammamish Athletic Leagues

Representatives from all leagues in Sammamish were interviewed to identify current and future needs for athletic fields. Most projections were for continued growth and steady demand for more field time. In part because many league boundaries extend beyond city limits, league representatives said they regularly use non-city fields (such as school fields or private fields) and fields outside of city limits to meet their needs. Even with this additional inventory, league representatives indicate they still don't have enough field time. In many cases, Sammamish leagues have had to limit the number of participants because of the limited availability of athletic fields.

Each league provided information on how they are currently using the Sammamish fields (practices or games) and whether or not they are using non-city fields to support their programs. This information is summarized in Figure 4.5



Figure 4.5: Existing Field Use

Sport	Age	City of Sammamish Fields					Other Fields	
		Beaver Lake Park	East Sammamish Park	Pine Lake Park	Eastlake Community Fields	Skyline Community Fields	Inside Sammamish	Outside Sammamish
Baseball	Youth	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Baseball	Adult	N/A	N/A	N/A	Practices & Games	N/A	Yes	Yes
Softball	Youth	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Softball	Adult	Practices & Games	None	None	None	N/A	No	No
Football	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Practices	Practices	Yes for Games	No
Lacrosse	Youth	N/A	Practices	Practices	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Soccer	Youth	Practices	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Soccer	Adult	N/A	Games	None	Games	Games	Yes	Yes





Athletic Fields

Information about field use shows that all Sammamish athletic fields are being used as multipurpose facilities, serving multiple sports and multiple age groups. Though efficient, it often causes scheduling challenges during overlapping athletic seasons. On natural-turf fields, such as East Sammamish Park, overuse can cause turf damage and long-term closures for maintenance.

Field Needs by Season

Until the 1990s, sport seasons were clearly separated. Soccer and football were played in the fall and winter, and baseball and softball were played in the spring and summer. Most Sammamish athletic fields were designed as overlays, meaning that a soccer or football field overlapped a baseball/softball field. The overlapping design worked because the sports seasons were distinctly different.



For the past 15 years or so, the introduction of select programs and the boom in sports such as lacrosse have increased field demand and blurred the line between sport seasons. Select or competitive teams often practice year round. For example, extending soccer season to spring and summer causes conflicts for fields that were previously dedicated for baseball or softball. The growing popularity of lacrosse adds another challenge. Lacrosse leagues use fields similar in size to soccer and football and play primarily in the spring. Figure 4.6 provides a summary of athletic league play by month.

Figure 4.6 Athletic League Seasons By Month

Sport	Age	Field Usage by Month											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baseball	Youth												
Baseball	Adult												
Softball	Youth												
Softball	Adult												
Football	Youth												
Lacrosse	Youth												
Soccer	Youth												
Soccer	Adult												



Athletic Fields



Overlapping seasons result in increased demand for some fields and a reduction in rest periods for natural-turf fields.

Field and Design Requirements by Sports League

In addition to a different field configuration for each sport, age groups within each sport sometimes require different field sizes. Soccer, for example, begins as early as age 4 or 5 on a 45-by-60-foot field. Soccer for older youth and adults, however, is played on fields that are 180 by 330 feet. Lengths of field lines and even the size of the goal vary by age group.

Football, lacrosse and soccer are played on similar-size fields, but the dimensions for each vary slightly, and each sport requires different field lines. Also, the lines for men's and women's lacrosse are different. To address this need, lacrosse fields are designated for either women or men and are not interchangeable for game play.

Safety can become an issue, especially when fields are side by side as at Skyline and Eastlake high schools. For example, a long fly ball from a softball game on Skyline Field 2 can enter the play zone of a lacrosse game in progress on Field 1. Ideally, fields should include safe zones beyond out-of-play lines to protect nearby users. Figure 4.7 summarizes field size requirements for Sammamish leagues.

Figure 4.7 League Field Size Requirements

Sport	Age	Pitching Mound Distance	Base Path Distance	Center Field Fence Line Distance	Field Dimension
Baseball	Youth	Range: 46' to 60' 6"	Range: 60' to 90'	200' to 300'	N/A
Baseball	Adult	60'	90'	325'+	N/A
Softball	Youth	35' to 43'	50' to 60'	200'	N/A
Softball	Adult	50'	65'	200' to 315'	N/A
Football	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 210' Length: 288'
Lacrosse	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 180' - 210' Length: 330' - 420'
Soccer	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 45' - 180' Length: 75' - 330'
Soccer	Adult	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 195' - 240' Length: 330' - 360'





Athletic Fields

To accommodate a variety of needs, synthetic-turf fields are built to a standard size that can be used by as many leagues as possible. For example, community sports fields are 180 by 330 feet, a satisfactory size for adult soccer, football, and lacrosse that can also accommodate younger teams. An overlay for a baseball/softball field makes the field even more versatile.

From an operations perspective, synthetic turf offers many benefits: It doesn't require rest periods, sustains wet weather conditions and costs considerably less to maintain. However, representatives from youth baseball and youth softball leagues say they wish to continue playing on natural-grass fields. Natural-grass fields fare better when they are not required to accommodate multiple sports at the same time. They cannot sustain the wear and tear of full-size field play for soccer and lacrosse in addition to spring-season baseball and softball.



Athletic League Weekly Usage

The number of practices, games and tournaments played annually by each Sammamish athletic team varies widely. Generally, youth teams hold one or two practices per week, usually on weekdays. Most play at least one game per week, typically on weekends. Most youth teams travel outside of Sammamish for half of their regular-season games. Many leagues host preseason and postseason tournaments, which are accommodated when field space allows.

Because of the limited number of fields and because youth teams have priority over adult teams, most adult teams do not have practice time during peak season (March through May and July through October). When fields are available, adult teams typically practice no more than once a week. Adult leagues schedule their games on weekdays and weekends, as field availability allows. For the most part, adult play is restricted to synthetic-turf fields.

Sammamish Athletic Field Use Analysis

To understand how existing Sammamish fields are being used, capacity at each field was studied, with both weekday (Figure 4.8) and weekend (Figure 4.9) use analyzed. (An attempt was made to compare Sammamish field usage data to national standards, but the comparison was difficult due to the many variables involved including field types, field size, weather and scheduling policies.)



Athletic Fields



Information in both tables was generated based on historical field reservation data.

Figure 4.8 Sammamish Field Usage by Time Slot (2011 Weekday Use)

Facility	Field	Surface	Sport*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaver Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Beaver Lake Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Beaver Lake Park	Field 3	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
East Sammamish Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Moderate	High	High	High	Low	Low
East Sammamish Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Low	Low
East Sammamish Park	Field 3	Natural	SC, LX	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High	Low	Low
Pine Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB	Low	Low	High	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	SC, LX, FB	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Low
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Low
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	Low

*BB = baseball, SB = softball, SC = soccer, LX = lacrosse, FB = football

High	High Usage (80-100% reserved)
Moderate	Moderate Usage (60-80% reserved)
Low	Low Use (<60% reserved)
Closed	Field Closed for Maintenance



Weekdays primarily see use for youth practices and, when fields are available, for adult games. High-use periods, particularly on synthetic-turf fields, occur during peak youth-league seasons (March through May and July through October). The reservation rate for many of the months shown in red is at or near 100 percent for synthetic-turf fields.





Athletic Fields

The weekday chart indicates that natural-turf fields, particularly at Beaver Lake Park, are not being used to full capacity. A recent increase in rental rates may have resulted in fewer reservations on these fields. Anecdotal feedback from league representatives suggests that leagues no longer reserve multiple fields for the same time, as they used to do when reservation fees were lower. This may mean fewer reservations but also a more accurate reflection of demand. This new availability is an opportunity for the department to shift leagues and teams from high-use fields to low-use fields and to promote additional field time to other teams and leagues.

Field quality is also a factor in demand; demand is strongest for fields of the highest quality (synthetic-turf fields). Durability of the synthetic playing surface allows leagues to schedule multiple teams on the same field for practice, thereby making the most of their field rental budget.

Adult leagues, specifically adult soccer, would like more time during the week on synthetic-turf fields. Adult leagues are attractive to the city because they play year round, which stabilizes use and revenue over a 12-month period. However, synthetic-turf fields are not available for adult use during peak youth seasons. Most adult leagues require a minimum two-hour block that they can schedule consistently all year. The addition of more fields would help meet this need.

Another factor in scheduling natural-turf fields is that they are used only by youth programs, ages 12 and under. Older youth teams and adults are scheduled exclusively on the synthetic-turf fields, which are larger and can withstand the wear and tear of adult play.



Athletic Fields



Figure 4.9 Sammamish Field Usage by Time Slot (2011 Weekend Use)

Facility	Field	Surface	Sport*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaver Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 3	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 3	Natural	SC, LX												
Pine Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												

*BB = baseball, SB = softball, SC = soccer, LX = lacrosse, FB = football

	High Usage (80-100% reserved)
	Moderate Usage (60-80% reserved)
	Low Use (<60% reserved)
	Field Closed for Maintenance

Weekend use shows virtually the opposite of weekday patterns. Many of the natural-turf fields are scheduled at or near capacity to accommodate youth games, especially in the spring. Sammamish has a high number of baseball and softball leagues playing games on weekends on their home fields. Synthetic-turf fields see much lower play on weekends, as soccer and lacrosse teams travel for half their games. Fall football leagues use high school stadiums, instead of city fields, because of their spectator seating, public-address systems, and concession stands.





Athletic Fields

Weekend play on all fields is low during the months of August, September and October. This may be an opportunity for another league to use Sammamish fields or for small local tournaments to be held.

One way to balance weekend and weekday use is to encourage adult teams to use the synthetic fields for weekend practices. This market should be explored further.

Next Steps for Athletic Fields

Currently, there is no formula available to identify the number of athletic fields needed to meet demand.

Instead, the recommendation is based on observed trends, historical reservation data, and information obtained from the leagues.

New synthetic-turf fields would alleviate demand at existing Sammamish fields. If new fields are constructed in partnership with the school districts (i.e., shared-use fields), the City should consider constructing two to three additional multipurpose fields. Each shared use field provides a maximum of only four hours of community use on weeknights.

If the fields are city-use only, fewer fields will be required as each field can accommodate up to seven hours of community use on weekdays, nearly doubling the capacity as compared with a shared-use field.

While not specifically examined in this chapter, consideration should also be given to constructing fields where lights are allowed until as late as 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. to maximize field use. Currently our fields with lighting have a cutoff time of 9 p.m.

If extended field light hours are not an option, an indoor venue (i.e., a field house) should be explored as a suitable alternative.

In addition to constructing new fields, existing natural-turf fields should be evaluated for improvements, such as installing synthetic turf in high-use areas (for instance, goal boxes on soccer fields). Other improvements may include installing better drainage to improve play and reduce rainouts and long-term maintenance closures. In some instances it may make sense to replace the dirt infields of a softball or baseball field with synthetic turf.



Athletic Fields



Field scheduling policies and practices should be analyzed to ensure that field utilization is maximized (at or above 80 percent) system-wide during peak seasons (March through May and July through October). Furthermore, strategies should be implemented to increase field use above 60 percent during nonpeak seasons. This may include reducing the field rental rates and implementing a marketing program.

Specific goals and objectives related to athletic fields are identified in the following section.

Planning for the Future/Identifying Athletic Field Needs

Based on the information provided above, goals and objectives have been identified for the Sammamish athletic fields. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer. It should be noted that athletic fields are also referenced in a general sense in the goals section of Chapter 3.

Goal – Areas of focus in the long-term

Objective – Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal

Action Item – Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate)

Athletic Field Goal #1 (A.1): Construct new athletic fields, giving priority to the construction of synthetic-turf multipurpose athletic fields.

Objective A.1.1: Explore the potential of building a field house with indoor synthetic-turf fields.

Action A.1.1.A: Work with the Y to explore the possibility of developing an indoor field house at the Y-owned Pine Lake property.

Action A.1.1.B: Develop criteria for new athletic fields that provides guidance as to when synthetic turf and lights are appropriate and also provides guidance on field use hours and field light hours.





Athletic Fields

Objective A.1.2: Purchase or develop two or three additional field sites suitable for the construction of new synthetic turf multipurpose fields.

Action A.1.2.A: Complete the Eastlake Community Field Phase II project. This is a conversion of a natural-turf baseball field to a multipurpose synthetic-turf field.

Objective A.1.3: Complete master plans for undeveloped park land that may accommodate additional athletic fields.

Action A.1.3.A: Complete the Thirty Acres Park at Soaring Eagle Master Plan.

Athletic Field Goal #2 (A.2): *Improve existing Sammamish athletic fields to increase field capacity.*

Objective A.2.1: Prioritize conversion of existing natural-turf to synthetic-turf fields (with lights when possible) to increase playability and to serve multiple athletic programs.

Action A.2.1.A: Install synthetic turf in the goal boxes at East Sammamish Park Field 3. It was determined in the adopted East Sammamish Park Master Plan that this field would not be upgraded to full synthetic turf.

Action A.2.1.B: Convert one baseball/softball field at East Sammamish Park to synthetic turf. This conversion was not identified in the Master Plan, and the conversion will not include field lights.



Athletic Fields



Objective A.2.2: Perform other field improvements, including the installation of under-drainage systems at all natural-turf fields to improve athletic field playing surfaces and reduce the number of rainouts and the time required for turf rehabilitation.

Action A.2.2.A: Install under-drainage at the Pine Lake Park field and at all East Sammamish Park fields.

Athletic Field Goal #3 (A.3): *Explore partnership opportunities to improve or upgrade non-city fields.*

Objective A.3.1: Continue to partner with the local school districts and other providers to convert natural-turf fields to synthetic-turf fields with lights.

Athletic Field Goal #4 (A.4): *Continually evaluate field usage data and modify and review field scheduling processes to maximize community use and ensure system wide coordination.*

Objective A.4.1: Continue to coordinate field scheduling with leagues to ensure a balanced use of fields during peak and nonpeak seasons. Peak season field utilization rates should be at or above 70 percent on all fields.

Action A.4.1.A: Complete an assessment of Sammamish league needs and determine Sammamish's level of responsibility (most league boundaries overlap with other jurisdictions) for meeting these needs.





Athletic Fields

Objective A.4.2: Market and promote the Sammamish fields to local and nonlocal users to increase facility use during low-use periods.

Action A.4.2.A: Promote weekday use at Beaver Lake Park year-round.

Action A.4.2.B: Promote weekend use at all athletic fields during the months of August, September and October. Strive for 60 percent field usage during this time period.

Action A.4.2.C: Evaluate the potential to reduce field use fees during nonpeak times to increase field utilization.

Conclusion

Sammamish athletic leagues have expressed a need for more athletic fields. While the City of Sammamish made a significant contribution by constructing new community fields at Skyline and Eastlake high schools, demand for more field time remains strong. The solution includes improving operations by closely coordinating with leagues to schedule efficiently and by promoting low-use field time. In addition, the solution may also include construction of new fields and/or an indoor field house, and continued improvement of existing fields.





Recreation Facilities **5**

Recreation Facilities



Introduction

The following chapter examines the parks and recreation facilities in and near Sammamish, including indoor recreation amenities as well as park pavilions and shelters.



Although Sammamish has been an incorporated city only a short time, there are several indoor recreation facilities available to the public and a number of park pavilions and shelters. Many indoor facilities and shelters were part of existing King County parks or were built for other purposes before the land became a park. Since the city's incorporation, other parks have been established and additional facilities added. However, major indoor recreation facilities are still lacking for a city with the population base of Sammamish.

Indoor Recreation Facilities Inventory

This section of the chapter deals specifically with indoor recreation facilities, specifically indoor spaces that may be used for both active recreation (i.e., fitness, sports and swimming) and passive recreation (i.e., classes and meetings).

City of Sammamish Indoor Recreation Facilities

Sammamish's indoor facilities consist of Beaver Lake Lodge, Commons Hall in City Hall, the Recreation Center and the yet-to-be-developed SE 8th Street Park house and barn. The City does not own or operate any active indoor recreation spaces.



Beaver Lake Lodge – Located in Beaver Lake Park, this building was originally part of a lakeside resort that was later a Catholic camp. The building has undergone a number of improvements and now includes a large (1,850 square feet) multipurpose room that can seat 150 people, and a kitchen with an open stove-top range, triple sink, refrigerator, and ice machine. The building includes restrooms as well as a small office area. The lodge is used for a variety of parks and recreation programs, activities and community meetings, and is also available for rent.

Commons Hall – This large multipurpose room is part of City Hall and serves primarily as City Council Chambers and as a location for other city meetings and events, limiting its use as a recreation space



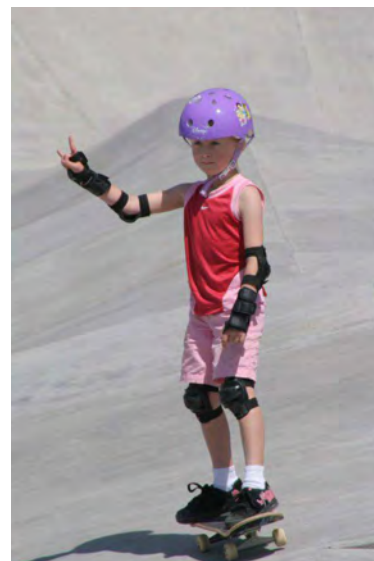


Recreation Facilities

and community events area. The main hall is 2,000 square feet with a seating capacity of 200 and an attached gallery area of 2,500 square feet.

Recreation Center-Sammamish Boys & Girls Club – This old King County Library building was purchased by the City but is leased and operated by the Boys & Girls Club. The club has space to serve a variety of youth recreation needs. Club officials hope to build a gym at this location in the future. The facility also provides a limited number of senior and adult programs during the day.

SE 8th Street House and Barn – The City has acquired the buildings and land (donated by Mary Pigott) to develop into a future park. The house is a well-maintained former residence that has a large living room, dining room, family room, kitchen/eating area, large master bedroom, two smaller bedrooms and a two-car garage. In addition, a barn with a covered storage area is a short distance away. The final use of these spaces will be determined as part of the master planning process for this park.



City of Sammamish Indoor Facility Reservations

Most of the city's indoor recreation facilities may be reserved for private use. Figure 5.1 provides information on usage and income over a three- year period.

Figure 5.1 Indoor Facilities Rental History Summary

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Commons Hall				
Reservations	43	49	46	112
Attendance	3,225	3,675	3,450	8,400
Beaver Lake Lodge				
Reservations	818	1026	814	586*
Attendance	61,350	76,950	61,050	43,950
Totals				
Reservations	861	1075	860	698
Attendance	64,575	80,625	64,500	52,350
Total Revenue	\$56,716	\$67,374	\$60,366	\$55,344

** The Lodge was closed November-December 2011 for renovations.*



Recreation Facilities



Over the last three years, attendance and the number of rentals and bookings have fluctuated dramatically. Revenues were higher in 2009 than in 2008 or 2010.

Because the City of Sammamish has limited indoor recreation facilities, especially for more-active recreational pursuits, other providers fill the gap for residents. Other providers are listed below, sorted into public, nonprofit and private categories.

Public Indoor Facilities

The two school districts that serve Sammamish (Lake Washington and Issaquah) have gyms, classrooms and other areas that can be used for community recreation purposes. However, priority is given to school-based activities, which limits availability. None of the schools has a pool.

While most cities near Sammamish have indoor recreation facilities, most of these are older and smaller, with limited elements for active recreation. However, each city has a long-range plan to build new community recreation centers with a strong focus on active recreation pursuits. These facilities are mapped on figure 5.2

City of Redmond Indoor Facilities

Old Firehouse Teen Center – Formerly a fire station, this building has been renovated and expanded to serve as a teen center. The facility includes a small office area, game room, sound studio, silk-screen shop, dark room, computer room, small kitchen and a large performance area that opens to the outside.

Redmond Pool at Hartman Park – The City of Redmond owns the land, King County owns the building, and the private nonprofit Wave Aquatics club operates the pool. The aquatic center features a stretch six-lane tank with 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards; the center includes a small office area and locker rooms.

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center – This former school building is the primary location for Redmond's general recreation programs. It houses staff offices, classrooms, a large gym, a multipurpose room, a pottery studio, a commercial kitchen, and a dance studio.





Recreation Facilities

Redmond Senior Center – This newer building features a large multipurpose room, a commercial kitchen, open lounge area, a wellness room, computer lab and crafts rooms, billiards room, gift shop, library, and other meeting rooms.

City of Issaquah Indoor Facilities

The City of Issaquah has two indoor facilities located next to each other downtown.

Issaquah Community Center – This newer center features a large gym, raised running track, a very small fitness area, several classrooms and a youth center.

Julius Boehm Pool – Built during the King County Forward Thrust movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, this facility is typical of that time period, with a conventional stretch 40-yard pool with a shallow area and a 25-yard six-lane lap/competition area. Parking is often scarce.

City of Bellevue Indoor Facilities

The City of Bellevue has a number of indoor recreation amenities, but the only facility that is in relative close proximity to Sammamish is their indoor pool.

Bellevue Aquatic Center – This conventional six-lane pool has a diving well in addition to a separate therapy pool.

Other Indoor Facilities

In addition to the public facilities listed above, there are also other communities in the area (Snoqualmie, Mercer Island, etc.) that have indoor community recreation facilities, but they are all a considerable distance from Sammamish, which limits their market impact.

Nonprofit Indoor Facilities

There are a limited number of nonprofit facilities in the greater Sammamish area. Besides the Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, noted above, this list includes:

Bellevue Family YMCA—This is a full service YMCA that is in a small building with little parking. The Y has a four-lane lap pool, gym, fitness area, indoor track, racquetball courts, and youth, teen and senior areas.



Recreation Facilities



Issaquah Valley Senior Center— This facility is located in downtown Issaquah and offers fitness classes and health and wellness programs.

Pine Lake Community Club —This older community building in Sammamish has a large multipurpose room with a small kitchen and stage area. A preschool rents space on the first floor.

Sammamish Family YMCA — This facility is located in a leased portion of City Church and features a four-lane lap pool, gymnasium, wellness studio, cycling studio, meeting room, and fitness center. Although this is the only comprehensive nonprofit facility located within Sammamish city limits, it is not owned by the Y, was not designed for its current use, and is far too small to serve the needs of the area.

Private Indoor Facilities

Besides the public and nonprofit facilities listed above, a variety of private clubs operate in the area. These facilities are mapped on figure 5.3 and they include the following:

24 Hour Fitness — The club, in Issaquah, has a large fitness area, lap pool and gymnasium.

Columbia Athletic Club-Pine Lake — The only comprehensive private sports and fitness facility in Sammamish, the club has four indoor tennis courts, a gymnasium, a 25-yard pool, a children's pool, a large fitness area, three exercise studios, and other amenities.

Columbia Fitness — This is a smaller storefront fitness center in north Sammamish that provides a fitness area.

Fitness Together — This is a small fitness facility located in a shopping center that provides a fitness area.

Gold's Gym (2) — There are two Gold's Gyms in the area: The one in Redmond is a large comprehensive club with indoor lap pool, large fitness area, gym, and a youth athletics area. The other, in Issaquah, also has a large fitness area as well as an indoor lap pool.





Recreation Facilities

Klahanie Fitness — This is a medium-sized fitness facility located just outside Sammamish that provides a fitness area.

Klahanie Pools — The Klahanie development has two small outdoor four-lane lap pools: the Mountainview Pool, which is open seasonally, and the Lakeside, which has an inflatable bubble to cover it from fall to spring. This pool is used by competitive swim teams during the winter months and is open to the residents of Klahanie.

The Plateau Club — Primarily a golf facility, the club also has an outdoor pool and a small fitness center in a separate building from the clubhouse.

Pro Sports Club-Bellevue and Redmond — The club's Bellevue site is one of the largest and most sophisticated health clubs in the United States. The high-end facility features large fitness areas, four indoor pools, a gym, indoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, a restaurant, and other support amenities. The Redmond facility is more of a specialty fitness and sports-specific training center in a much smaller space.

Redmond Athletic Club — This relatively new health club in downtown Redmond features a large weight/cardio area, a gym, a group fitness areas, a climbing wall and racquetball courts.

Samena Swim & Recreation Club — Located in Bellevue, this club has indoor and outdoor pools, a fitness area, classroom space, youth space, preschool room and a multipurpose room. This facility is about 10 miles from Sammamish.

Sammamish Club — The club, in Issaquah, features four indoor tennis courts, a four-lane lap pool, a weight/cardio area, group fitness rooms, and a youth area and café.

Velocity Sports Performance — Dedicated to sports-specific training, the Redmond club focuses primarily on youth. There are also plans to develop a Planet Fitness facility in the old Albertsons grocery store in Issaquah.

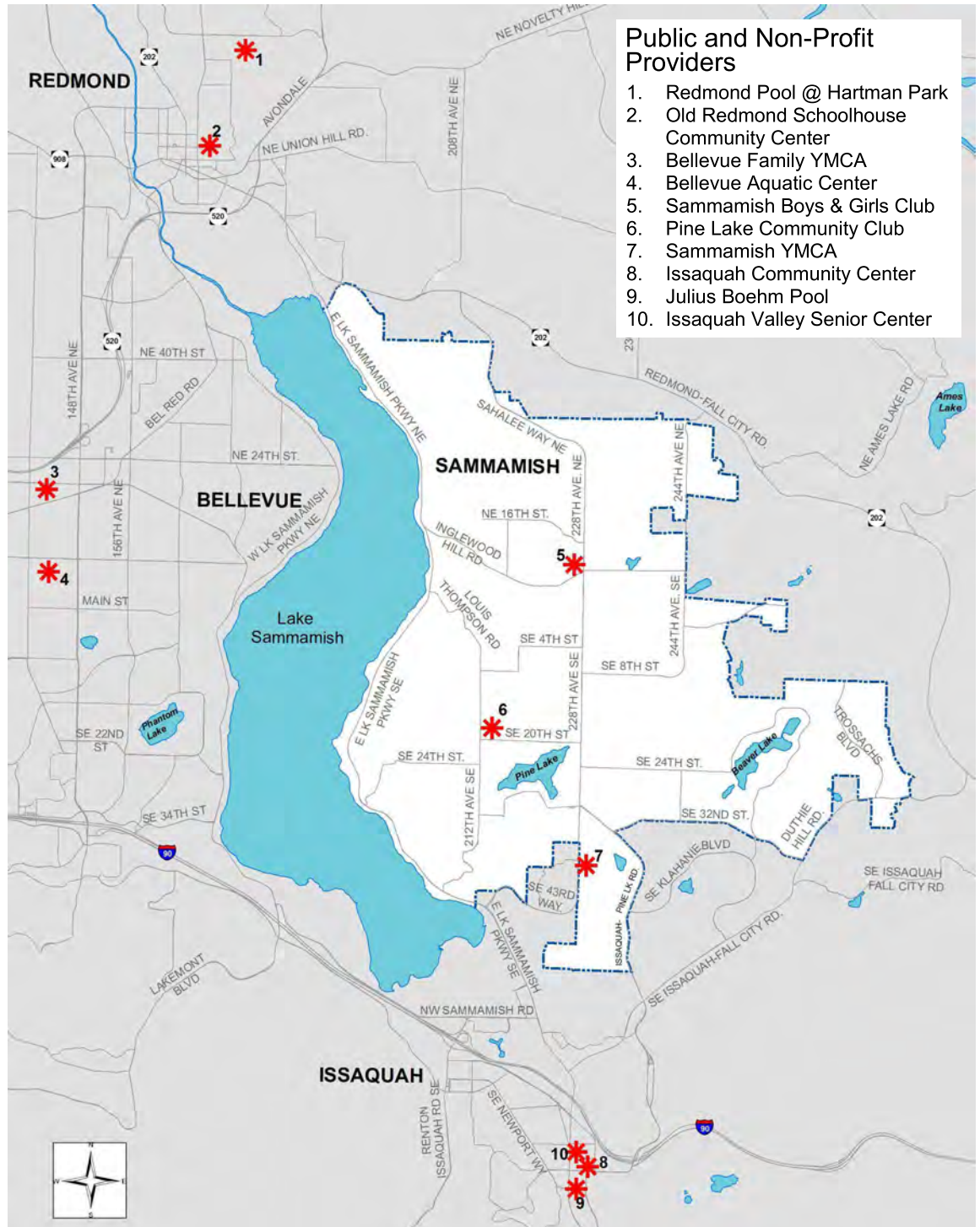
In addition to these large comprehensive facilities, there are many smaller fitness facilities, such as Snap Fitness, Anytime Fitness and Curves. Many martial arts and dance studios operate in the area as well.



Recreation Facilities



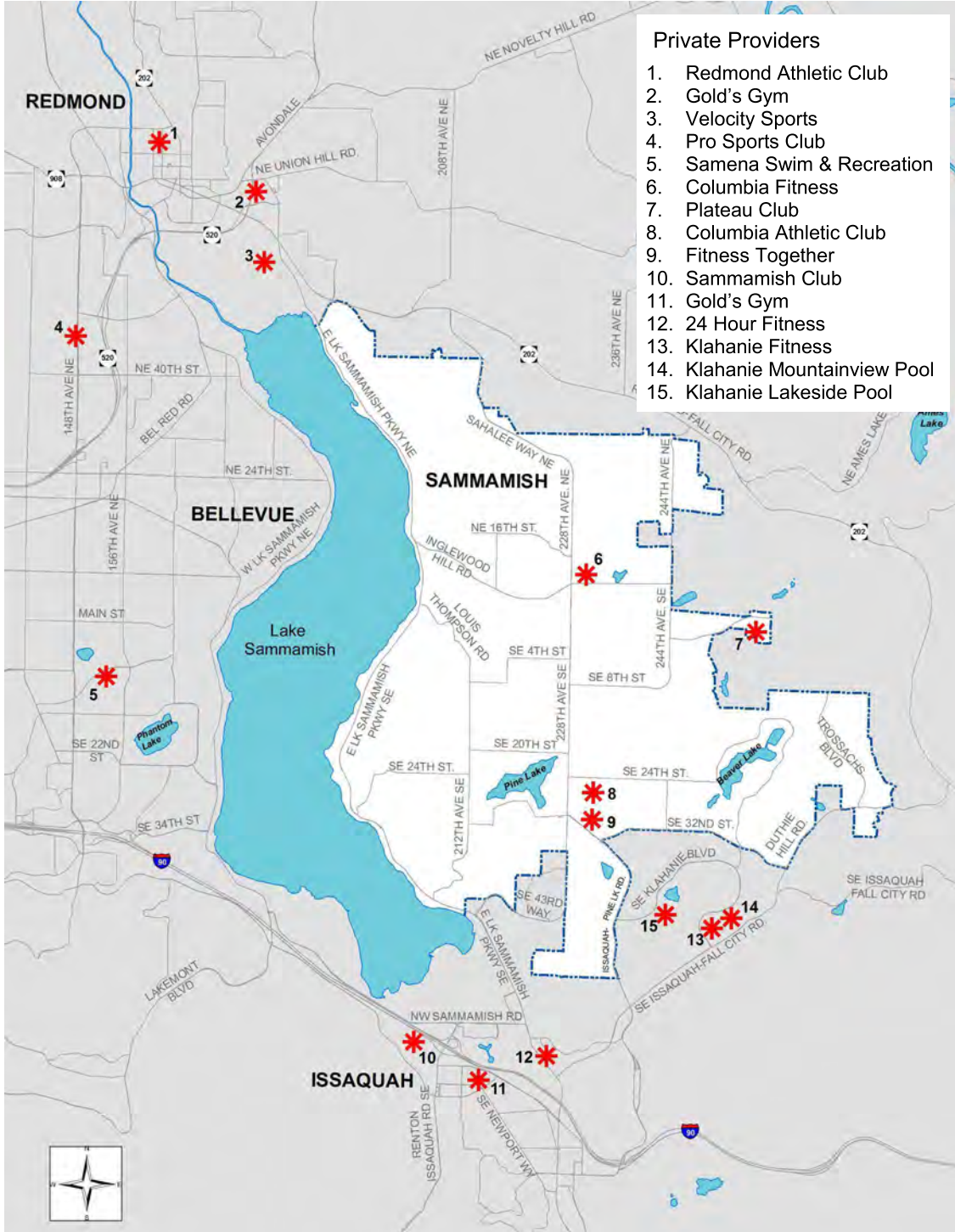
Figure 5.2 Public and Non-profit Providers





Recreation Facilities

Figure 5.3 Private Providers



Recreation Facilities



Indoor Recreation Facility Trends



Over the past 20 to 30 years, indoor facilities for recreation have changed dramatically. In the past, most recreation in public spaces took place outdoors, with limited demand for indoor activities. Indoor recreation facilities tended to have the following characteristics:

- **Neighborhood-Based** — Most facilities served a neighborhood, much like parks did. Often a community built three or four facilities to serve the needs of its residents.
- **Smaller Facilities** — Most centers were 5,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet.
- **Passive Recreation Orientation** — Many were designed to accommodate passive, classroom-based recreation, with minimal active recreation elements.
- **Singular-Focused** — Because of their small size, they tended to include only one or two elements such as a gym, pool or meeting area.
- **Limited Demographic Appeal** — The neighborhood center tended to focus on one demographic group, usually children, teens or seniors.
- **Minimal to No Fitness** — Most neighborhood centers had few or no fitness amenities such as weight/cardio areas or group exercise studios.
- **Institutional Look and Feel** — Neighborhood centers usually were very basic in design and material and often had little curb appeal to attract users.
- **Use of Multiple Facilities** — Because most facilities were small with a single focus, users often had to travel to multiple facilities for their indoor recreation needs.
- **Reliance on School Facilities** — Schools often provided the outlet for community recreation activities.





Recreation Facilities

- High Operating Costs and Low Revenue - With multiple facilities to maintain and fewer amenities for which to charge fees, the cost recovery rate for these older indoor recreation facilities has tended to be low.

Now many communities are developing larger, multipurpose indoor recreation centers with the following traits:

- Community Based — The focus has shifted to multifaceted, centralized indoor recreation facilities that can serve an entire community.
- Larger Facilities — The size of facilities has grown to an average of 65,000 to 75,000 square feet.
- Active and Passive Recreation Orientation — To meet a wide range of recreation needs, community centers often blend active recreation elements (pools, gyms, fitness areas, etc.) with more-traditional meeting spaces, classrooms and cultural arts amenities.
- Multigenerational Facility — To serve an entire community, a center must appeal to young and old and especially to families. This reduces the need for separate, age-specific facilities and is a more cost-effective approach to providing these services.
- Commitment to Fitness and Wellness — Driven by public demand, most community recreation centers now provide fitness amenities (weight/cardio equipment areas, group fitness studios, walk/jog tracks and wellness education areas) as well as fitness and wellness programming.
- Community Gathering Place — A primary goal of community recreation centers is to serve as a community's living room.
- Facilities with Strong Market Appeal — New centers are designed to entice users with open floor plans and lots of windows and natural light.
- Partnerships — Developing and operating these bigger, more-comprehensive centers at a time when public funds are tight has



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led to a greater emphasis on establishing partnerships with other providers.

- Higher Cost Recovery — One comprehensive center with many active and passive components is less expensive to operate than multiple facilities, and the revenue potential is much higher. As a result the overall cost recovery level is now in the 75 to 90 percent range for centers in more-urban markets.

Despite the trend toward larger, more-comprehensive community recreation centers, most communities still require additional indoor recreation, fitness, and sports providers to meet the diverse needs of their residents.



A single facility cannot always meet all indoor recreation needs, so it is not unusual to see smaller facilities that either have a strong community presence or are a special-use facility such as an ice rink, performing arts center, aquatics center or field house.

Although new community recreation centers have decreased dependence on school facilities, schools are still used for community recreation. Nonprofit and private facilities are also essential to meeting all of a community's recreation, sports and fitness needs.

Specific Facility Needs

Because of increasing demand, there is a shortage in most communities of the following types of indoor spaces:

- Gymnasiums
- Pools (especially leisure pools)
- Weight/cardiovascular equipment areas
- Indoor running/walking tracks
- Meeting/multipurpose (general program) space
- Senior adult program space
- Preschool and youth space
- Teen use areas

Growth in youth sports and high demand for school gyms have left most communities experiencing an acute lack of gymnasium space. Space for weight equipment and cardiovascular workouts is also in high demand.





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Meeting the needs of senior citizens, the fastest-growing segment of society, is important and will grow more so in the coming years. Indoor walking tracks, exercise areas, pools and classroom spaces are important to this age group. Marketing to younger, more-active seniors is important, as this age group has the free time available to participate in leisure activities, the desire to remain fit, and the disposable income to pay for such services.

Youth programming, always a cornerstone for recreation services, will continue to be so as communities focus on meeting the needs of teens and providing a deterrent to juvenile crime. As the number of households led by single parents or two working parents increases, the need for before-school and after-school child care continues to grow, as does the need for preschool programming.

Community Recreation Center Benchmarks

The following benchmarks, provided by Ballard*King and Associates, were developed based on market research at recreation centers across the United States:

- The majority of recreation centers being built today are between 65,000 and 75,000 square feet. Most include three primary components: a pool area, usually with both competitive and leisure amenities; multipurpose gymnasium space; and a weight/cardiovascular equipment area. In addition, most centers also have group exercise rooms, drop-in childcare, and classrooms or community spaces.
- To cover all operating expenses with revenues, centers must have a service population of at least 50,000 and a fee structure that supports cost recovery.
- Most centers that are between 65,000 and 75,000 square feet have an operating budget of between \$1.5 million and \$1.8 million annually. Nearly 65 percent of the operating costs are from personnel services, followed by approximately 25 percent for contractual services, 8 percent for commodities, and 2 percent for capital replacement.
- Centers that serve a more urban population should be able to recover 70 to 100 percent of operating expenses. For centers in



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more rural areas, the recovery rate is generally 50 to 75 percent. Facilities that can consistently cover all of their operating expenses with revenues are rare.

- Most large centers in an urban environment serve 800 to 1,000 or more paying customers each day.
- It is common for centers to have a three-tiered fee structure offering passes for daily access, extended visits (usually punch cards), and annual access. In urban areas, it is common to have resident and nonresident fees. Nonresident rates usually run 25 percent to 50 percent higher than the resident rates. Daily rates for residents average between \$3 and \$6 for adults and \$3 and \$4 for youth and seniors. Annual rates for residents average between \$200 and \$300 for adults, and \$100 and \$200 for youth and seniors. Family annual passes tend to be heavily discounted and run between \$350 and \$800.
- Most centers are open an average of 105 hours a week, with weekday hours 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays noon to 8 p.m. Often hours are shorter during the summer months.

Note: These statistics vary by region of the country.



City Indoor Recreation Facilities Classification System

There are three categories of indoor recreation facility:

- Neighborhood recreation center
- Community recreation center
- Special-use center

The decision to develop indoor recreation facilities in any of the three classifications depends on the following:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area or community
- Size and suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs





Recreation Facilities

Indoor Recreation Facility Classifications

Neighborhood Center

This type is usually 5,000 to 20,000 square feet and serves a population base of 5,000 to 10,000. These centers often include an entry area, office space, restrooms, classrooms, community space, and possibly a gym or other multipurpose space.

Community Recreation Center

Often 65,000 to 75,000 square feet, they serve entire communities (30,000 people or more). Most include three primary components: a pool area, usually with both competitive and leisure amenities; multipurpose gymnasium space; and a weight/cardiovascular equipment area. In addition, most centers also have group exercise rooms, drop-in childcare, and classrooms or community spaces.

Special-Use Center

These are usually stand-alone facilities with a specific demographic focus (teens, seniors, etc.) or a special amenity (ice rink, field house, aquatics center, performing arts center, etc.). They may also be facilities with historical or cultural significance. As a result, indoor recreation facilities of this type can vary dramatically in size and offerings.

City of Sammamish indoor recreation facilities are classified as follows:

Neighborhood Center

Recreation Center-Sammamish Boys & Girls Club — A smaller facility that primarily focuses on one age group.

Community Recreation Center

At the present time, the City does not have a community recreation center, although the possibility of building one is being explored.



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Special-Use Center

Beaver Lake Lodge — The lodge's unique nature and presence in Beaver Lake Park makes it more of a special-use center. If the City were to develop a community recreation center, the lodge would fit more squarely in the neighborhood category.

Commons Hall — Its location in City Hall makes it a communitywide facility, but its limited and unique uses qualify this facility as a special-use center.

SE 8th Street Park House & Barn — Though the specific uses of this facility have yet to be determined, its history, physical limitations, and location suggest that it will function as a special-use center.

Indoor Recreation Facilities Maintenance and Operations

The City's commitment to indoor facilities maintenance and operations varies with the facility. Currently the Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the Beaver Lake Lodge and to some extent Commons Hall as part of the City's management of City Hall. The Recreation Center, since it is leased to the Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, is maintained and operated by that organization, but the City does have long-term maintenance requirements for the building's structure and operating systems. While the City does have ownership of the SE 8th Street Park house and barn, its future use will ultimately determine the Parks M & O's role in maintaining the facility.



The Parks M & O team utilizes a number of contracts for professional services to maintain indoor recreation facilities. This includes custodial services, electrical repairs, HVAC system maintenance, and plumbing.

Recreation Facilities Maintenance Plans

With minimal indoor recreation facilities in the City's inventory, there are only basic maintenance plans in place. However, as new,





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larger and more diverse indoor facilities are added, it will be important to develop very detailed operations and maintenance plans for each one of these centers that includes not only custodial tasks and standards but also general systems maintenance and preventive maintenance tasks.

Indoor Recreation Facilities Level of Service

There are no established national levels of service for indoor recreation facilities. However, some communities are now beginning to adopt basic square footage per person (SF/person) guidelines as a prelude to adopting actual level of service standards. The average SF/person is in the range of 1 to 3 for general indoor recreation amenities (classrooms, multipurpose rooms, pools, gyms, fitness areas, etc.), but these numbers do not include specialty facilities such as ice rinks, performing arts centers, and field houses. The trend in the last five years is an increase in SF/person ranges as the demand and popularity of indoor recreation facilities have also risen. This is expected to continue in the next ten years.



Park Pavilion and Shelter Inventory

This section of the chapter concentrates on park pavilions and shelters. These are covered outdoor spaces located in city parks that may be reserved for private use. The City of Sammamish has eleven picnic shelters and one pavilion in its current park inventory (Figure 5.4).



Recreation Facilities



Figure 5.4 Shelter Inventory

Park	Facility	Size (SF)	Tables	Grill	Coal Bin	Trash Can	Water	Electricity	Drinking Fountain	Fireplace
Beaver Lake Park—East	Pavilion	2,500	6							
Beaver Lake Park—West	Medium Shelter	1,178	3							
Pine Lake Park	Medium Shelter	1,080	5							
Pine Lake Park	Small Shelter (2)	360 ea	2							
East Sammamish Park	Medium Shelter	863	4							
Ebright Creek Park	Medium Shelter	1,050	4							
Lower Commons Park	Medium Shelter	1,484	4							
Lower Commons Park	Small Shelter (2)	330 ea	1							
Sammamish Landing Park	Small Shelter (2)	360 ea	4							

Rental Criteria

In its fee schedule, the City of Sammamish classifies its shelters into Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities, based on popularity rather than size. Small shelters are not rented and are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are therefore in a third category. Rentals are scheduled from March through September.

Picnic Shelter and Pavilion Rental Reservations

Figure 5.5 provides information on usage and income over a three year period. In the figures below, a rental is defined as an individual contract. Each contract may have one or multiple reservations.





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Figure 5.5: Picnic Shelter and Pavilion Rental History Summary

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Beaver Lake Pavilion				
Reservations	239	221	195	304
Attendance	9,560	8,840	7,800	12,160
Beaver Lake West Side				
Reservations	32	21	22	34
Attendance	1,600	1,050	1,100	1,700
Pine Lake				
Reservations	18	75	70	85
Attendance	540	2,250	1,200	2,550
Ebright Creek				
Reservations	90	75	63	60
Attendance	4,050	3,375	2,835	2,700
East Sammamish Park				
Reservations	33	29	38	27
Attendance	1,320	1,160	1,710	1,080
Lower Commons				
Reservations	5	8	26	31
Attendance	225	360	1,170	1,395
Totals				
Reservations	417	429	414	541
Attendance	17,295	17,035	15,815	21,585
Total Revenue	\$22,343	\$20,706	\$34,511	\$36,797



Recreation Facilities



Over the last three years, the overall number of reservations has remained about the same, while attendance has fluctuated. Revenues were significantly higher in 2010 than in the previous two years. Based on historical reservation data, the City currently has an adequate number of park shelters that can be reserved; however the most popular Tier 1 facilities sell out much more quickly than the Tier 2 facilities.

Park Pavilions and Shelter Trends

Park pavilions and shelters have evolved over the last 20 years to include the following:

- Larger shelters that can be rented for bigger gatherings, including corporate events. These are often in a separate area of the park.
- Shelters with more amenities including:
 - Water
 - Electricity
 - Storage
 - Lighting
 - Restrooms very near or included in the shelter.
- Increased fees geared towards partial or full cost recovery for high-demand times (weekends) and high-demand locations.
- Shelters located near other recreation amenities such as athletic facilities, lakes and playgrounds.



Park Pavilion and Shelter Classification System

Separate from the pricing structure, park pavilions and shelters are classified as follows. These classifications provide guidelines to aid with future park development projects.

Large (Pavilion) — A pavilion that is larger than 1,500 square feet that has at least six picnic tables, barbecue grill, hot-coal can, trash cans, water, and electricity. There should also be restrooms within the immediate vicinity. Optional amenities may include lighting, fireplaces, drinking fountains, and attached storage.

Medium — A shelter between 500 and 1,500 square feet that includes a minimum of four tables, a barbecue grill, hot-coal can, and trash cans. It may have water and electricity.





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Small — A shelter of 500 square feet or less that includes one or two picnic tables, a barbecue grill, hot-coal can, and trash cans only.

The presence of shelters in city parks should be based on the classification of the park.

Community Park — This level of park can support all sizes of shelters but should have more large- and medium-sized shelters than small. Pavilions or large group shelters are also appropriate

Neighborhood Parks — This size of park should have small to medium shelters only.

Mini Park — A park of this size should have only a small shelter or no shelter at all.

Special-Use Park — Depending on type of use, it could be appropriate to have a variety of sizes of shelters.

Open Space/Natural Areas — Passive use parks should have small to medium shelters only.



Maintenance and Operations

Currently, the Parks Maintenance and Operations Division, with help from contracted service companies, cleans and maintains all shelters and the Beaver Lake Pavilion. This includes daily cleaning as well as small repairs or improvements. Larger improvements are contracted to outside professionals. The department has a strong commitment to keeping the shelters in top condition for all renters and for drop-in use as well.

Pavilion and Shelter Maintenance Plans

Basic maintenance plans for each park include pavilion and shelter maintenance. If the City develops additional shelters and larger pavilions, it will be necessary to establish more-detailed, site-specific maintenance plans.



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Park Pavilion and Shelter Level of Service



There are no established levels of service for park pavilions or shelters, but it is important that the City create a direct relationship between pavilions/shelters and park development. It should establish not only the appropriate size of pavilions and shelters based on park classification, but should also delineate the approximate range in number of these facilities that are developed per park. Aligning pavilion and shelter planning with park development will ensure both are distributed equitably throughout the city.

Planning for the Future/Identifying Recreation Facility Needs

Based on the information provided above, a series of goals and objectives has been identified for indoor recreation facilities and park shelters. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer.

Goal — Areas of focus in the long-term

Objective — Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal.

Action Item — Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate).



Recreation Facilities Goal #1 (F.1): *Provide a number of indoor recreation facilities that are able to deliver a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.*

Objective F.1.1: Continue to manage and update the existing indoor recreation facilities that are in City of Sammamish ownership.

Action F.1.1.A: Develop long-range plans for ongoing maintenance and capital repairs at Beaver Lake Lodge.

Action F.1.1.B: Establish a maintenance and operations plan for all indoor facilities, including leased facilities. Operating plans shall address staffing levels, program and service delivery, maintenance, and marketing.





Recreation Facilities

Objective F.1.2: Plan for the development of additional indoor recreation facilities to better serve the recreational needs of the community.

Objective F.1.3: Provide indoor amenities that will meet a broad range of recreation needs from active to passive recreation. Facilities should have a multi-generational appeal when at all possible, and the number of neighborhood facilities and special-use facilities should be limited.

Objective F.1.4: Provide indoor recreation facilities that are centrally located. Minimize or eliminate the development of neighborhood focused facilities.

Objective F.1.5: Reduce the reliance on Beaver Lake Lodge and Commons Hall as locations for recreation programming. Establish these facilities as priority locations for rentals.

Objective F.1.6: Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) facilities, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.

Objective F.1.7: Provide clear priorities of use for each city facility (and each amenity) for both internal department use as well as other community providers and general community usage.

Recreation Facilities Goal #2 (F.2): *Develop a new, comprehensive indoor community center to serve both the active and passive recreation needs of the community.*

Objective F.2.1: Modify the findings from the 2011 feasibility study and the project approach as necessary to meet the changing needs and financial expectations of the community.

Action F.2.1.A: Develop two or three modified facility options (smaller in size) for consideration and further study.



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Objective F.2.2: Establish a funding plan for the development and operation of the center.

Objective F.2.3: Identify partners for the project. Partners should be considered for both capital development and operations.

Recreation Facilities Goal #3 (F.3): *Determine the future use of the SE 8th Street Park house and barn.*

Objective F.3.1: Complete a master plan to determine the future program uses of the house and barn. Identify program focus and orientation.

Action F.3.1.A: Determine needed improvements/additions/changes to modify the house and barn for the intended use, including addressing ADA and safety issues.

Action F.3.1.B: Establish a formal development plan including funding requirements, a project timeline, and construction approach.

Recreation Facilities Goal #4 (F.4): *Explore the establishment of equity partnerships with other public, nonprofit and private indoor recreation service providers.*

Objective F.4.1: Recognize that the City does not have to own and operate all the recreation facilities that it utilizes for recreation programs and services.

Objective F.4.2: Actively pursue the establishment of equity partnerships to develop or expand indoor recreation facilities. Equity partnerships may include capital development, operations, and service delivery.

Objective F.4.3: Promote the development of special-use facilities through partnerships.

Objective F.4.4: Encourage other indoor recreation providers to bring facilities into the Sammamish market.





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Objective F.4.5: Continue to work with the two school districts and private education providers to further increase utilization of existing school facilities for recreation purposes. Also work to develop any new school buildings or facilities to also serve community recreation needs.

Recreation Facilities Goal #5 (F.5): *Identify financing strategies for the development and operation of indoor recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.*

Objective F.5.1: Seek funding for new or renovated indoor facilities through a variety of sources, including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, impact fees, grants, donations, bonds, levies or partnerships.

Objective F.5.2: Establish and maintain a fee policy for indoor facility use and rental rates that supports the operational requirements of the facility and market demand for use. Consider cost-recovery goals for each facility.

Objective F.5.3: Adopt a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) every two years to address indoor recreation facilities improvements.

Action F.5.3.A: Update the CIP as part of the six-year PRO Plan Update. (2012)

Recreation Facilities Goal #6 (F.6): *Develop and operate pavilions and shelters in a manner that effectively and efficiently serves the residents of Sammamish.*

Objective F.6.1: Integrate pavilion and shelter development with any new park plans or renovations to existing parks.

Objective F.6.2: Regularly update and modify the existing fee schedule to maximize the revenue potential from the rental of these facilities. Link demand and shelter size to fees assessed.



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Objective F.6.3: Improve registration processes and customer service associated with picnic shelter and pavilion rentals.

Action F.6.3.A: Accept credit cards for pavilion and shelter rentals and have the capability to reserve and pay for all rentals online.

Conclusion

The City of Sammamish will need to concentrate on the development of additional indoor recreation facilities to adequately serve the diverse recreation needs of the community. This will be accomplished in a number of ways including renovating existing amenities and developing new facilities. Establishing strong partnerships and identifying key funding sources will be critical to this process.

The pavilion and shelters that are located in the city's parks are a definite asset for the community. The operation and management of these amenities needs to be a focus in the coming years with an emphasis on long-term planning.





Recreation Programming **6**

Recreation Programming



Introduction

Our favorite moments in life often involve a recreation activity. From attending a play to rafting a river, playing a sport, or hiking a beautiful trail, recreation and leisure play a significant role in our lives. People choose to participate in recreation activities for a variety of reasons, including health, fun, education and social opportunities. Figure 6.1 provides a summary of general recreation categories.



Figure 6.1: Categories of Recreation Programs

Category	Program Description
Adventure	This type of recreation almost always takes place outside and is typically very active and physically challenging. Some examples include skateboarding, rock or wall climbing, bicycle motocross (BMX) or mountain biking, skiing, paragliding, zip-lining and horseback riding.
Aquatics	These activities occur in a pool, lake or other body of water. Specific programs may include swim classes, boating or water safety programs, free swim, water slides, fishing, and competitive swimming programs.
Cultural Arts	This category includes performing arts (theater, plays), music (symphony, choir ensemble), visual arts (photo exhibits, sculptures, quilting), creative movement (ballet, dance), and culture/heritage preservation (cultural fair, historical film/slideshow, scrapbooking).
Educational/ Instructional Classes	These programs help participants learn new skills or improve current skills. Examples include classes in defensive driving, cooking, computer programming, foreign language, and financial management.





Recreation Programming

Figure 6.1 continued

Category	Program Description
Environmental	Programs may teach about the environment or offer an activity that focuses on environmental awareness. Commonly offered programs include park cleanups, tree planting and nature walks.
Health and Wellness	Besides traditional physical fitness activities, health and wellness programming can also include classes, socializing, meditation and stress relief. Popular programs include yoga, aerobics, healthy cooking, and dance. Health and wellness has become a greater focus of recreation providers as rates of obesity (and other health risk factors) have risen in the United States.
Special Events	A special event is usually a one-time activity that is open to the general public. Special events can overlap with other recreation categories. A triathlon, for example, is an athletic special event. A concert in a park would be considered a cultural-arts special event.
Special Needs/Inclusivity	Specialized recreation is for individuals with disabilities or other special needs. A well-known example is Special Olympics, a very popular program offering a wide range of athletic activities. Besides specialized classes, this category can include programs and activities that can be adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities.



This chapter will focus on the role of the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department in providing and facilitating recreation opportunities in Sammamish. The chapter will conclude with a list of goals to aid the growth and development of recreation programming over the next six to 10 years.



Recreation Programming



Recreation in Sammamish



Upon incorporation in 1999, public recreation programs were provided primarily by the cities of Redmond and Issaquah, with limited opportunities provided by King County. While opportunities for public recreation existed, travel time required to participate in these programs was a challenge for many residents.

Fortunately, local nonprofits, service clubs, private organizations and churches were and still are helping to meet the community need for recreation. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts offer classes and camps for youth. Recreational events such as the Nightmare at Beaver Lake Park are hosted by the Rotary Club of Sammamish. Many Sammamish churches offer recreational programs, classes and events that are open to the public. Some even offer preschool programs, before- and after-school daycare, and summer camps. Private and nonprofit organizations provide membership-based recreation opportunities including swimming and fitness. A summary of current recreation providers in Sammamish is provided in Figure 6.2.

Figure 6.2 Summary of Recreation Service Providers

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
Beaver Lake Community Club 1955	The Beaver Lake Community Club was created by neighbors of Beaver Lake. The club sponsors and organizes several events, including an Easter egg hunt in Beaver Lake Park, open to all residents, the Beaver Lake Triathlon and the annual Beaver Lake Regatta.
City of Issaquah	The City of Issaquah offers aquatics at Boehm Pool, a farmers market at Pickering Barn, and a community center that includes a youth center. It also rents facilities and fields and offers preschool, recreation classes, summer concerts and other events. The Issaquah Valley Senior Center, operated by a nonprofit group, offers programs for older adults.





Recreation Programming

Figure 6.2 continued

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
City of Redmond	The City of Redmond offers recreation classes, aquatics at the Redmond Pool, a senior center, a teen center, facility and field rentals, Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park, a preschool, a farmers market at Redmond Town Center (privately operated), and events such as Derby Days and Redmond Lights.
City of Sammamish	The City of Sammamish offers large community events such as a summer concert series, a noontime summer performance series for children, the Fourth on the Plateau, Sammamish Days, the winter holiday event, and the farmers market (in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce).
Columbia Athletic Clubs Pine Lake Club 1995 Sammamish Club 2000	Columbia Athletic Club, a private fitness facility, offers health and fitness programs for families and individuals. Programs include day camps and after-school programs, fitness classes, tennis, basketball, volleyball and aquatics.
Pine Lake Community Club Established in 1936 Club House late 1940s	The clubhouse was originally built as a community gathering space. The club offers programs such as student driving, math tutoring, step aerobics, yoga, dance and art to its private members.
Redmond/ Sammamish Boys & Girls Club 1992	The Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club offers recreational programs for kids ages 6 to 18. This club operates a recreation center in Sammamish and provides before- and after-school programs at five Sammamish elementary schools in the Lake Washington School District. The Club also provides summer camps and youth sports leagues.



Recreation Programming



Figure 6.2 continued

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
Sammamish Family Y	Even before it opened its own facility on the south end of the plateau, the Y offered programs for child care and youth sports in Sammamish. The current facility includes a fitness center and gymnasium and offers fitness classes and aquatic programs. The Y service model emphasizes families, healthy lifestyles, and “providing opportunities for youth which shape values and encourage lifelong community service.”



Since incorporation, the focus of the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department has been building and improving infrastructure rather than being a direct provider of recreation programming. The City currently operates a number of parks, which provide opportunities for passive recreation, including hiking, biking, walking, and nature watching. The City of Sammamish also operates athletic fields, which support active recreation programs such as baseball, softball, soccer, football, and lacrosse. Beaver Lake Lodge provides an indoor venue for community members, clubs and organizations to host recreation classes.

The city’s major role in recreation programming is the production of large community special events. The City hosts a summer concert series, a noontime summer performance series for children, the Fourth on the Plateau, and Sammamish Days, in addition to a number of other special events throughout the year. The City also partners with the Chamber of Commerce to provide a local farmers market from May through September.

In 2010, the City made a further investment in recreation programming by purchasing the former King County library building to develop a small recreation center. Through a partnership with the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, recreation programs and activities are now available for middle and high school students during nonschool hours. Additional programs for toddlers, stay-at-home parents, home-school children and senior adults are available during school hours and on the weekends.





Recreation Programming

Current Recreation Trends

Like any major industry, recreation is constantly changing. Recreation trends need to be observed and factored into long-term planning strategies. Some key trends include:

- A transition to a partnership-based model for delivery of recreation programs
- Recreation as a key factor in improving health and wellness
- Play as an essential component of childhood development
- Recreation as an important community builder



Transition to Partnership-Based Delivery Models

The recent economic recession significantly affected recreation programming. Government agencies were forced to make cuts that in many cases resulted in reduced service levels, higher fees or the elimination of recreation programs. The demand for recreation services, however, remains high.

The days of significant program subsidies are gone, and government is forced to consider alternative service delivery models. The most common transition has been to a public-nonprofit partnership model. This is the operating model used for the recreation center, a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Other partnership models exist including public-private and joint-government ventures. Partnerships will continue to play a critical role in the delivery of recreation programs in the future.



Health and Wellness

Obesity is an alarming trend in the health of Americans. Nearly one-third of U.S. adults are obese, and fewer than half are at a healthy body weight. Increasing rates of obesity and inactivity over the past two decades reflect a dramatic shift in American health and lifestyle. Children, whose levels of obesity have skyrocketed, are now more vulnerable to lifelong risks of diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis and heart disease. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that today's youth may be the first generation to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.¹

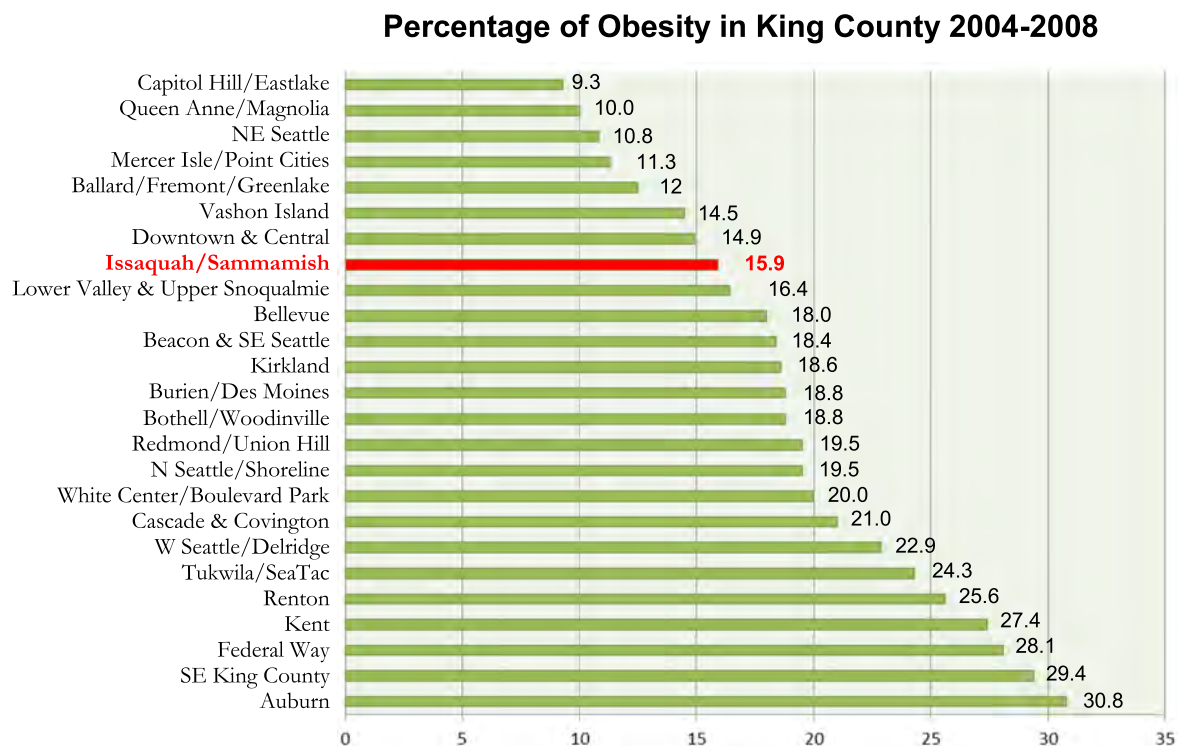


Recreation Programming



Recent statistics provided by the Seattle-King County Department of Health indicate almost 16 percent of adults (age 18+) in Sammamish are obese (Figure 6.3). While this percentage is less than the average for King County (19.8 percent), and lower than that of many other cities, it is still a cause for much concern.

Figure 6.3 Percentage of Obesity in King County 2004-2008 ²



Research indicates that a person's level of physical activity is strongly influenced by features of home, workplace, and community. The presence of bicycle paths, walking paths, exercise facilities and swimming pools, perceived by residents as safe, pleasant, and easily accessible, can play an important role in the health of a community.³ There is a strong connection between health and wellness and the availability of recreation opportunities and programs in the community. Recently, First Lady Michelle Obama has stepped in to promote health and wellness through recreation by kicking off a nationwide "Let's Move" campaign.





Recreation Programming

The Importance of Play for Childhood Development

Many adults fondly remember childhood days spent playing outside. Today's children, however, often face a different reality. In many cases, their back yards, if they have one, consist of small patches of grass, not suitable for pickup games of baseball. These days, play often involves structure, continuous adult supervision, and the influence of technology.

Safety is also a concern. Parents are reluctant to allow kids to go to a park alone or even to walk to school. Statistics show a steep decline in the number of children walking or biking to school over the past 50 years.⁴

Finally, technology is another factor in reduced active play time. Technological advances have changed the way we use our leisure time. Computer games, online social networks and television occupy a significant portion of our daily lives. In fact, children today spend more time watching TV than any other activity except sleeping.⁵

Research indicates that children are missing critical opportunities for life development because of their reduced time for play. Figure 6.4 lists some of the cognitive and social benefits of play.



Figure 6.4: Some of the Benefits of Play⁶

1. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination and dexterity and their physical, cognitive and emotional strength.
2. Play is important to brain development.
3. Play allows children to learn to interact with the world around them.
4. Undirected play allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills.



Recreation Programming



While we can't change new social norms, we can assure that our recreation programs and facilities provide safe opportunities that promote healthy childhood development, including creative play. Not every recreation program or activity needs to be structured. Some of the best recreation programs are being developed with a focus on discovery and exploration. In a community like Sammamish, with plentiful outdoor opportunities, these types of experiences should be encouraged.



Building Community

Now that the population of Sammamish tops 45,000, it's harder for residents to get to know all of their neighbors. Yet the desire for community and a sense of place is strong. Attendance at special events demonstrates the appeal of community gatherings. The Kids First Noontime Performances, a series of midday summer programs for young children, routinely attracts more than 500 audience members. On a fair-weather night, 1,000 people attend summer concerts at Pine Lake Park. The inaugural years of the Fourth on the Plateau event attracted more than 10,000 people.

Recreation programs such as Sammamish Days, a relatively new event, provide an opportunity to learn about and celebrate different cultures. Additional cultural enrichment opportunities should be explored in the future. Opportunities to bring the community together in a variety of settings should continue to be a priority for recreation in Sammamish.

Planning for the Future/ Identifying Recreation Programming Needs

As the City of Sammamish contemplates the future of recreation, including the possibility of a new community and aquatic center, early results from community outreach indicate a strong desire for additional recreation programs in Sammamish. Based on this information, the following recreation programming goals have been identified:

Recreation Goal #1 (R.1): Identify and implement partnerships that support efficient and effective delivery of recreation services and programs.





Recreation Programming

Recreation Goal #2 (R.2): Provide recreation opportunities and support partnerships that promote active living and health and wellness opportunities in the community.

Recreation Goal #3 (R.3): Provide recreation opportunities and support partnerships that support lifelong play, discovery, exploration, creativity and learning for individuals and families.

Recreation Goal #4 (R.4): Expand recreation programming opportunities to promote community building.

Recreation Goal #5 (R.5): Provide affordable and high-quality recreation experiences that serve a diverse community.

Recreation Goal #6 (R.6): Improve and expand marketing to increase participation in parks and in recreation programs and activities.

Conclusion

Recreation opportunities, including programs, services and events, are an essential aspect of life in Sammamish. Recreation programs promote active living, provide social opportunities, and contribute to the overall health and wellness of the community. The demand for recreation programs is evident, but the City of Sammamish cannot go it alone. Partnerships will be the cornerstone of recreation program development and expansion in the coming years.



Recreation Programming



Notes



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Cultural Arts **7**



Introduction

Arts and culture play a vital role in the Sammamish community by encouraging creativity, challenging us to see the world through different eyes, providing a connection to the past, and celebrating and honoring the diversity of the community. The arts scene in Sammamish is very much alive thanks to an active arts commission and a dedicated group of community volunteers.

The Sammamish Arts Commission, serving as an advisory body to the City Council, has identified the following mission and guiding principles:

Mission Statement

Integrating art and culture to create a sense of place, civic identity and unique character.

Guiding Principles

- **Artistic excellence:** We strive for artistic excellence by showcasing high-caliber local, regional and national artistic programming that reflects the city's vision.
- **Accessibility:** We engage deeply and widely with all segments of the city, striving to reach all members of the community and create an avenue for artists to bring their creativity to the public.
- **Collaboration:** We are committed to creating alliances and partnerships within and outside Sammamish to promote artistic excellence and accessibility. We work collaboratively with various state, regional and local agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the arts commission.
- **Community Design:** We focus our efforts to nurture and build creative capital locally, including taking necessary risks, to realize the impacts of the arts in fostering a vibrant social economy.
- **Diversity:** We value diversity in artistic expressions and strive to promote arts as a universal language that binds people from different backgrounds and breathes life into our communities.





Cultural Arts

Cultural Arts in Sammamish

One of the priorities of the City Council in 2002 was to promote and expand cultural arts opportunities in the community, and the council elected to form a task force to fulfill this need. Within the year, the task force sought grant opportunities to support local cultural arts performances. A condition of these grants, however, was that they could only be awarded to official arts commissions.

At the recommendation of the Sammamish Arts Task Force, the City Council approved the formation of the Sammamish Arts Commission (SAC) in 2003. The SAC now serves as an advisory body to the City Council in matters concerning the promotion and facilitation of public art in the community. In addition to receiving city funding, the commission can apply for and receive grant money from outside sources, and it has done so successfully on numerous occasions.

Since 2003, the commission has achieved several major goals. One of the most prominent is the rotating art exhibition at City Hall. Local, regional and national artists have displayed their works throughout the building and attracted many visitors from Sammamish and other areas of Washington State.

The SAC has had many other successes, such as installing art in public parks and promoting performances, readings, classes and educational experiences. The SAC is also known for pushing the envelope of creativity. In 2009, “Trash Apes” made an appearance at the parks and recreation summer concert series, and in 2011, a stand of tree stumps on the city’s main arterial was adorned with knitted tree socks.

Like many city programs, the SAC relies on a variety of partnerships to deliver programs to the community. Volunteers help produce many art events and programs. Other service agencies such as the Sammamish Heritage Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the King County Library System and the local school districts work collaboratively with the SAC and the Parks and Recreation Department to deliver cultural arts programs. A list of key partners is provided in Figure 7.1.



Cultural Arts



Figure 7.1 Sammamish Arts and Cultural Partners



Organization	Purpose
4 Culture	Serving all of King County, this cultural service agency provides programs, financial support and services in the area of arts, public art, heritage and historic preservation.
artEast	This Issaquah-based nonprofit organization, consisting of artists and art supporters, is dedicated to making the arts an integral part of life through regular art exhibitions and ongoing workshops.
Eastside Symphony	A community orchestra based in Redmond performs concerts in May and October with a focus on the standard classical repertoire.
Intiman Front Porch Theater	Founded in 1972 and based in Seattle, Intiman produces plays and outreach activities.
Issaquah Village Theater	Founded in 1979 and based in Issaquah, this organization is a leading producer of musical theater in the Pacific Northwest.
Master Chorus Eastside	Formerly the Issaquah Chorale, this group founded in 1991 is an all-volunteer, 50-plus-member auditioned chorus that offers a four-concert season for Eastside families.
Sammamish Heritage Society	Established in 1999, this nonprofit organization is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of Sammamish.
Sammamish Symphony	Incorporated in 1994, the orchestra began as the Providence Point Players and has grown to a full-symphony adult orchestra made up mainly of Eastside residents.
Wooden O	Founded in 1994 and merged with Seattle Shakespeare Company in 2008, this theatrical group based on Mercer Island provides free outdoor Shakespeare plays throughout King County.





Cultural Arts

Inventory of Public Art

Although the SAC is just getting started collecting and installing public art pieces, it has already amassed a small but respectable inventory:

- “Confluence” sculpture, Deb Young: Sammamish Commons Park Plaza
- Four seasons mosaic mural: Sammamish Commons Park Plaza
- Rooster: Lower Commons Sammamish Commons Park
- “Magnetic Drawing,” Nola Avienne: Sammamish City Hall
- “Late Summer,” quilt, Ellin Larimer: Sammamish City Hall
- Totem poles, David Boxley, Tsimshian tribe: Beaver Lake Park
- “Two Canoes,” photography/painting, Katherine Hastings: Sammamish City Hall



As new parks are developed and funding becomes available, additional art pieces will be installed throughout the Sammamish parks system and in other public spaces.

Cultural Arts: Benefits and Trends

There are a number of benefits to arts, culture and heritage programs and opportunities in the community. Some of these benefits include economic vitality, health and wellness, improved learning, and intrinsic value.

Economic Vitality

Cultural arts programming and opportunities play an important role in economic vitality. According to the 2010 Creative Vitality Index Survey, there were over 100,000 art-related jobs in Washington. Overall, the state of Washington remains above the nation as a whole as measured by the 2010 Index.¹ Art shows, displays, performances and programs attract visitors to Sammamish, supporting the local economy as patrons visiting performances and programs stay in the community for dinner or coffee.





Health and Wellness

A growing body of research shows that active participation in the arts promotes mental and physical health among older adults living independently in the community, improves the quality of life for those who are ill, and reduces risk factors that increase the chances that older adults will need long-term care.²

Improved Learning

There is strong evidence that youth involved in arts programs such as drama, music and dance do better in reading, writing and math than those who focus solely on academics.³ Una McAlinden, executive director of ArtsEd Washington, says “students in band or orchestra throughout middle and high school were twice as likely to get top scores in math as their peers not involved in music.”⁴



Intrinsic Human Value

Art sets out to “engage us, to inspire us, to challenge us, to comfort us,” says Rocco Landesman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.⁵ Very few of us go untouched by art. Heritage opportunities educate others about our past and instill civic pride and community spirit.

Trends in Cultural Arts

In 2010, a scientific phone survey was conducted to help us better understand community patterns and interest in cultural arts. Figure 7.2 indicates the type of cultural arts programs residents attended over a 12-month period. The most frequently attended events were music performances, followed by theater performances and participatory events such as art classes. Figure 7.3 indicates the types of cultural arts programs residents would like the City of Sammamish to offer. Music performances received the most first-choice votes, as well as the highest percent of total votes. Theater performances were second, and visual arts third. Dance and other performing arts received the lowest percentages.





Cultural Arts

Figure 7.2 Number of Arts and Cultural Programs Attended By Residents in the Last 12 Months (July 2010)

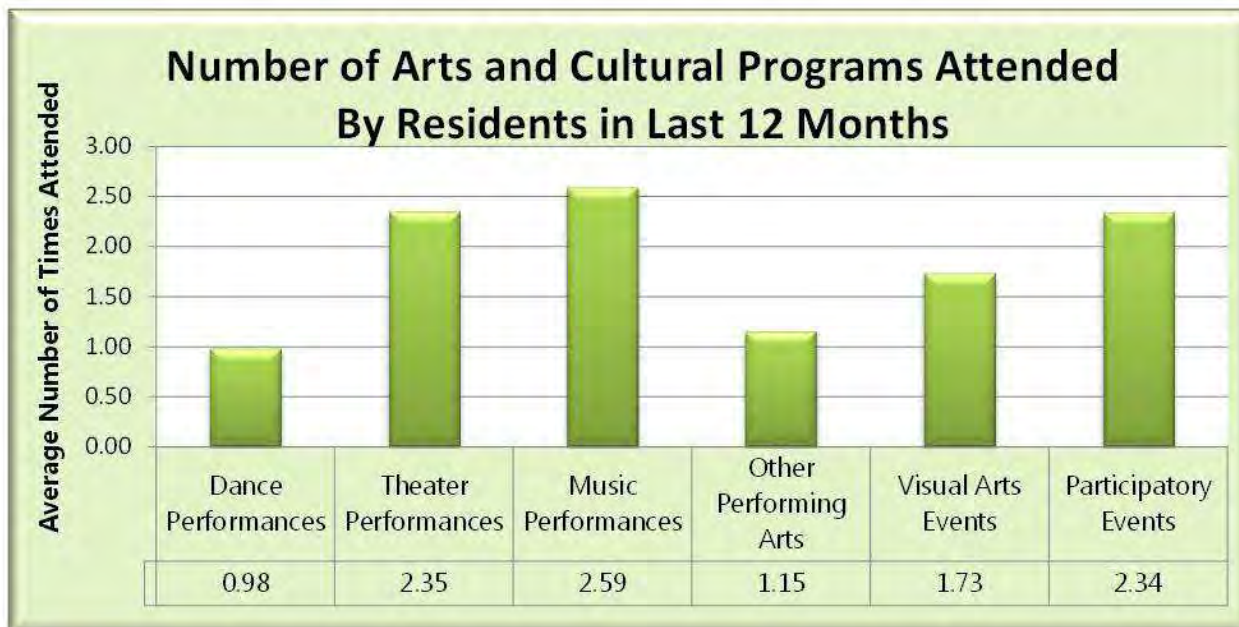
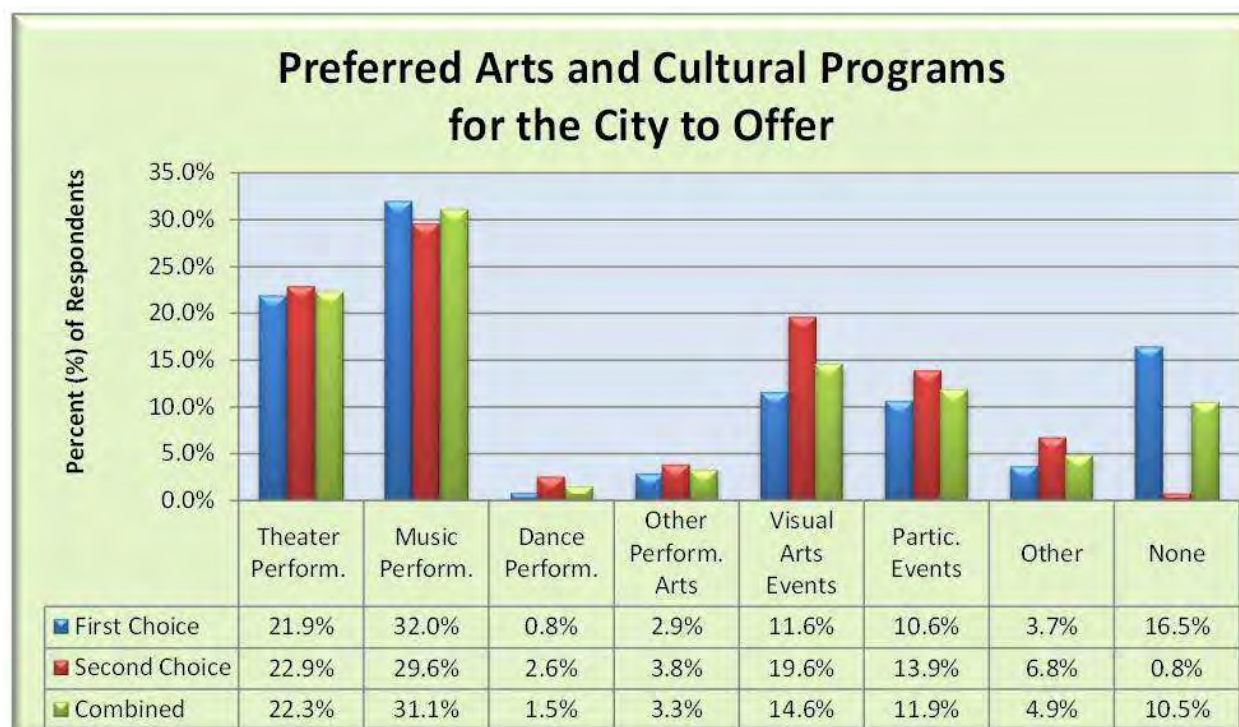


Figure 7.3 Preferred Arts and Cultural Programs for the City to Offer





Planning for the Future/ Identifying Cultural Arts Needs

Cultural arts play a vital role in the community. The offerings of the SAC in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department have helped to stimulate a renewed interest in performing arts, art shows and other educational and programming opportunities. The following long-term cultural arts goals have been identified:

Cultural Arts Goal #1 (C.1): Ensure the visibility and viability of cultural arts organizations, artists and art educators in the Sammamish community.

Cultural Arts Goal #2 (C.2): Continue to develop and support partnerships with local arts organizations for the promotion and delivery of cultural arts programs in Sammamish.

Cultural Arts Goal #3 (C.3): Support the installation of permanent art pieces in public spaces, including City Hall and parks.

Cultural Arts Goal #4 (C.4): Present participatory, performing, and visual arts programming for families.

Cultural Arts Goal #5 (C.5): Establish ongoing, collaborative planning relationships with other city departments to ensure the community arts program closely aligns with other planning objectives.

Cultural Arts Goal #6 (C.6): Solicit financial assistance from private, nonprofit and government agencies, to assist the delivery of arts programs and the acquisition of art pieces in Sammamish.





Cultural Arts

Conclusion

Cultural arts and heritage programs consist of a wide range of artistic, cultural and historical offerings that benefit the public. The SAC, along with city leaders and members of the community, will continue to work to foster creative expression, display works of art, support educational endeavors, and provide many other cultural arts opportunities to further enrich the Sammamish community.

Notes

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Volunteers & Partnerships **8**

Volunteers & Partnerships



Introduction



Residents were actively involved in the community long before Sammamish became a city. Their ongoing dedication has been evident in tireless work on issues such as incorporation and in generous giving of time for sports, school programs, and local politics. Since incorporation, the City has built upon this foundation by establishing a formal volunteer program and partnering with a number of community groups to continue the tradition of grass-roots community service.

Volunteers in Sammamish

During its early years, the City of Sammamish offered small-scale programs and events, relying on staff and a handful of volunteers. In 2007, the City Council decided to host a Fourth of July event, which led to the creation of a volunteer coordinator position. By 2010, the volunteer program was booming with volunteers serving in nearly every city department and working on special projects and assignments throughout the community.



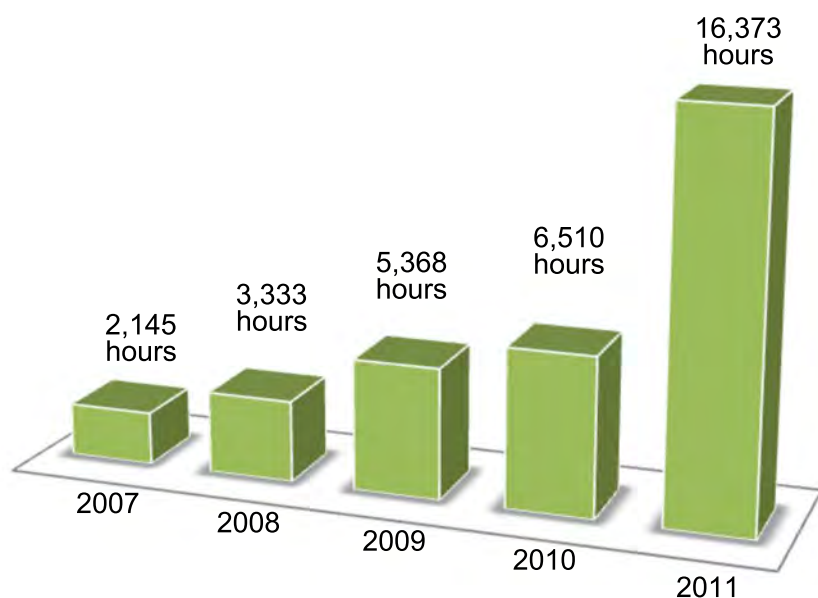
Volunteers for the City of Sammamish come from a variety of backgrounds. They include highly skilled individuals with expertise in engineering, surveying, and technical design, as well as individuals with disabilities seeking to improve their job skills. A number of businesses and civic organizations donate volunteer hours throughout the year, primarily for large-scale park-improvement projects. Volunteers provide invaluable resources to the City and the community by helping with special events, office work, and park projects such as invasive-species removal. Eagle Scouts regularly contribute physical improvements or service projects. Throughout the city, volunteer hours have dramatically increased since the program was formed in 2007, although it should be noted that the 2011 volunteer hours include the volunteer hours to help construct Evans Creek Preserve. See Figure 8.1.





Volunteers & Partnerships

Figure 8.1 Volunteer Hours by Year



According to a survey completed in 1997 by The Gallup Organization, local governments receive a third of all volunteer labor.¹ The estimated value of these services in the United States is \$43.9 billion dollars. The City of Sammamish had approximately 16,373 volunteer hours in 2011. The estimated dollar value for volunteer time in 2010-2011 is \$21.36 per hour.² Therefore, volunteers contributed \$349,727 worth of time to the City of Sammamish. Figure 8.2 shows the makeup of Sammamish's volunteer corps. Teenagers, ages 11-19, are the majority (32 percent) of volunteers at the city. Of the areas served by volunteers, 70 percent is in the Parks and Recreation Department. See figure 8.3 and 8.4.

Figure 8.2 Volunteer Demographics in 2011

Age	5-10	11-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
# of Volunteers	20	579	362	142	358	212	86	23	3
Percentage	1.12	32.44	20.28	7.96	20.06	11.88	4.82	1.29	0.17



Volunteers & Partnerships



Figure 8.3 Percentage of Volunteers by Age in 2011

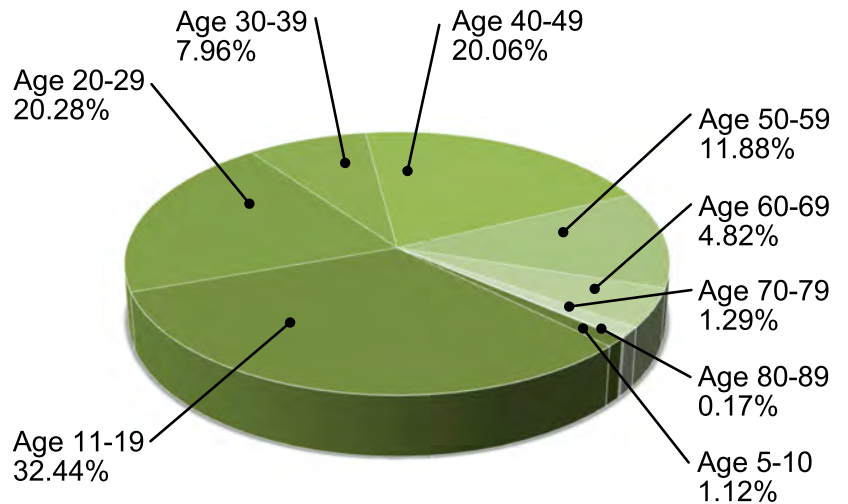
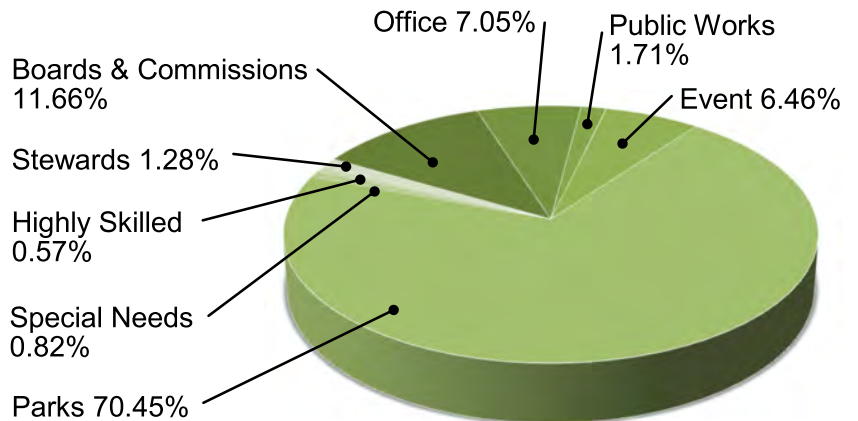


Figure 8.3 Percentage of Volunteers Time in 2011



Trends in Volunteerism

Nationally, volunteering has become popular for students and families. Some middle and high schools require volunteer hours for graduation or for membership in groups such as National Honor Society or Key Club. Churches encourage volunteerism in their communities, and many businesses allow employees paid time off to volunteer. A 2009 study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 27 percent of the population, or more than 63.3 million people, had volunteered during the previous year.³





Volunteers & Partnerships

Statistics indicate that people with children under age 18 are more likely to volunteer than those without children. On average, Americans spend about 50 hours per year volunteering.⁴ As the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, many are volunteering more. Many volunteer programs, including those in Sammamish, are being modified to focus on and accommodate this demographic group. The City may want to consider additional ways to recruit baby boomers, who already represent a significant proportion of its volunteers, especially those who are highly skilled. The city's various volunteer programs are further described in Figure 8.5

Figure 8.5 Sammamish Volunteer Programs

Program	Description
Boards & Commissions	The Sammamish governance structure includes several boards and commissions: arts, parks and recreation, planning, and the youth board. All commissioners and board members volunteer their time to provide advocacy and policy recommendations to the City Council. Commissioners are appointed by the City Council.
Highly skilled volunteers	Highly skilled volunteers include planners, engineers, and people with a variety of other technical skills, including training in ArcGIS, AutoCAD, and other software programs.
Office volunteers	These volunteers file, enter data, and perform other office support duties. Most are students, with the exception of the regularly scheduled front desk volunteers.
People with physical and intellectual disabilities	Citizens with special needs work primarily at City Hall and follow a regular weekly schedule. Jobs include cleaning, data entry, and special-event support.
Public Works	Public Works volunteers assist with street cleanup and with placement of decals on storm drains.



Volunteers & Partnerships



Figure 8.5 continued

Program	Description
Special Events	These volunteers help to plan and recruit other volunteers for events. They help with setting up before events and taking down afterwards. Volunteers pick up garbage, direct traffic, and provide support for city staff during the event.
Stewards	Sammamish offers a variety of steward programs. Washington native plant stewards are trained by the Washington Native Plant Society and spend at least 100 hours on a project in Sammamish each year. Park stewards visit parks weekly to observe visitors, check for damage, and serve as the eyes and ears of department staff. Trail stewards are trained, in partnership with Washington Trails Association, to lead trail construction and repair projects in Sammamish parks.

Partnerships

The City of Sammamish has developed partnerships with several organizations that complement existing programs. Partnerships with the school districts include National Honor Society, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), environmental clubs and classrooms. The City also partners with many nonprofits, including Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous faith-based organizations. The Sammamish Chamber of Commerce operates the farmers market in partnership with the City, and the Sammamish Rotary hosts an outdoor haunted house at Beaver Lake Park that raises over \$50,000 annually to support community programs. Figure 8.6 provides a summary of the many organizations with which the City partners.





Volunteers & Partnerships

Figure 8.6 Overview of Sammamish Partner Organizations

Program	Description
Business	The Chamber of Commerce provides business support for community events, partnership for Sammamish Farmers Market and Sammamish Nights, and partnerships with large corporations such as Microsoft.
Churches	Organized work parties are planned by churches and often focus on opportunities for youth and families.
Library	The local branch of the King County Library System is a partner to the City in programs and special event partners.
Nonprofit	Partnership with these organizations most often includes identifying volunteers to meet one-time or ongoing project needs. Organizations include Faith in Action, SAMMI Awards, Washington Trails Association, Boys & Girls Club, and the Y (formerly YMCA).
Sammamish Citizen Corp	The Corps supports emergency-preparedness efforts community-wide and also provides staff support for community special events.
School Organizations	Organizations within the schools that include community service or civic involvement, such as the National Honor Society, Key Club, environmental clubs, and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).
Service Groups	Groups organized for community or civic services. These include Sammamish Rotary, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the National Charity League.



Volunteers & Partnerships



Planning for the Future/ Identifying Volunteer and Partnership Needs

As the City and its Parks and Recreation Department have grown, volunteers and community partnerships have become increasingly important. In the coming years, recruitment efforts will need to be expanded, training enhanced, and the operating structure improved to support a complex and diverse volunteer program.

In 2011, the City carried out its largest volunteer effort to date: constructing trails and removing invasive plants in Evans Creek Preserve, 179 acres of unimproved wetlands and forest just north of city limits. Over the year, a series of 64 work parties were held with an average of 10 to 15 volunteers participating each day. These work parties consisted of volunteers with Washington Trails Association, corporations, Eagle Scouts, and city employees. In September, a single work party of over 60 people from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held to remove invasive plants and build trails. This is just one example of how community collaboration can help support, sustain and grow the parks and recreation system in Sammamish.

The following goals have been identified for the volunteer program:



Volunteer Goal #1 (V.1): Develop and expand volunteer programs for office and highly skilled volunteers, including the creation of internships and job-shadowing opportunities.

Volunteer Goal #2 (V.2): Develop a park stewardship program to help maintain and oversee park programs and to support a variety of specialty tasks and programs.

Volunteer Goal #3 (V.3): Build community by supporting citywide volunteerism and volunteer efforts associated with schools, churches, and local nonprofits





Volunteers & Partnerships

Conclusion

Since the formation of the volunteer program in 2007, volunteers have played a key role in city services. In 2011, nearly 70 percent of the total volunteer hours are dedicated to the parks and recreation department, and that number is growing. And given the challenging economic climate, volunteers are going to play an even more critical role in the coming years.

Notes

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Implementation 9

Implementation



Introduction



This chapter identifies specific projects for implementation through the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a six-year planning document that is re-evaluated every two years as part of the city's biennial budget process. It identifies specific improvement projects, funding sources and project timelines over the six-year period. Capital projects may include acquisition, repair, renovation, replacement and development. Because the entire project list cannot be completed in six years (due to limited resources), many projects are given a long-term designation. The complete Parks CIP is provided in Appendix G.

Process

The first step in developing the CIP is to identify all potential park-improvement projects. The adopted master plans for each park are one source for such projects. With the exception of NE Sammamish Park, SE 8th Street Park, and Thirty Acres (Soaring Eagle Park) the City has adopted a master plan for all park facilities. Each master plan outlines a broad vision for the park and identifies the projects needed to achieve that vision. Projects may be as simple as replacing a picnic shelter or as complex as renovating an entire park.



Projects from all the master plans are compiled into one list, including project scope and cost estimate, and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration. In many cases, capital maintenance and replacement projects, not typically included in master plans, are also added to the list for consideration. The commission reviews the projects over three to four meetings and solicits input from the public to aid in decision making.

Ultimately, the commission must review each project and assign a priority. Maintenance, replacement and safety issues are given a higher priority than other projects and moved to the top of the list. Projects that typically fall into the high-priority category are roof replacements, structural repairs, trail repairs, playground upgrades, and improvements to meet federal standards for disabled access. Because the Sammamish parks infrastructure is starting to age, the CIP will include more and more maintenance and replacement projects in the coming years. Other projects are prioritized based on





Implementation

factors such as public support, demand for the amenity or improvement, and ultimately the recommendation of the commission.

Once projects are prioritized, staff members assist the commission in assigning the projects to a calendar year. The decision on when to schedule a project is based on urgency, availability of funding, cash flow within the CIP, and the anticipated timeline for project completion.

Funding plays a key role in determining how projects are scheduled. Funds for parks capital projects come from two primary sources – the real estate excise tax (REET) and impact fees. Annual revenue projections for both sources are used to develop budget guidelines for each year. Typically, complete funding for a number of smaller maintenance and replacement projects (less than \$200,000 each) is included in the CIP for any given year. Large projects, costing more than \$1 million, require additional planning and may need to be scheduled over two or more years to ensure adequate funding.

Preliminary cost estimates were developed for projects on the CIP list. While every effort is made to calculate realistic estimates during the development of the CIP, costs fluctuate. We plan for these fluctuations through the allocation of contingency funds in the CIP.

In recent years, city employees have designed, managed and sometimes constructed parks capital projects as a cost-saving measure. While this saves money, it has the negative effect of extending project schedules. The preliminary cost estimates provided in the CIP assume the use of in-house resources for most elements of design and project management. It is still assumed that most construction work will be performed by outside companies contracted by the city.

The project timeline also plays a critical role in scheduling. In any year, the parks department strives to have half of its CIP projects in the planning and design phase and the other half in the construction phase. This helps balance staff time as well as the workload between staff and consultants. Unfortunately, projects don't always go according to schedule, which has led to cycles of construction years followed by planning years. To the extent possible, the goal continues to be to balance the two project phases from year to year.



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Each CIP project will typically take two years to complete from start to finish. This assumes a master plan or a public process or both are already complete. If that is not the case, or if further public input is needed, the additional planning work will add about 12 months to the process. Historically, most major park capital projects (\$1 million or greater) have taken two to three years to complete.

The first 12 to 18 months of a capital project are dedicated to public process (if needed), design, obtaining permits, and preparing construction documents. Once those steps are complete, the project is ready for construction. The length of construction varies, usually four to nine months for a typical park improvement project.

Not all park projects make it onto the six-year CIP list, but some are still considered important for long-term consideration and are designated as such in the CIP.

As a final step, the commission presents the recommended parks CIP to the City Council for approval.

Projects

The projects on the CIP fall into one of four categories:

- Development
- Renovation
- Repair/maintenance
- Acquisition

Development

Development projects add amenities to existing parks or establish new parks. This ensures our park system is continuing to meet the demands of the growing community.

Renovation

Renovations are improvements to existing park infrastructure. They may include upgrades to playgrounds or fields (for instance, adding new playground equipment or replacing natural turf (grass) with synthetic turf) and enhancements to restrooms or other facilities. These projects keep the park system functioning and maintain the city's investment in existing resources.





Implementation

Repair and Replacement

As with all park systems, capital repair and replacement are necessary to ensure a safe and functional park system.

Acquisition

Funds are allocated for property acquisition, although no specific property is identified for purchase. The geographic equity analysis (Chapter 3) shows that the northeast quadrant of the city lacks park land; that area will continue to be a priority for acquisition. In addition, acquisition funding is needed to purchase parcels adjacent to other park properties to create or maintain cohesive park areas, to protect open space, and to meet future needs for active recreation.

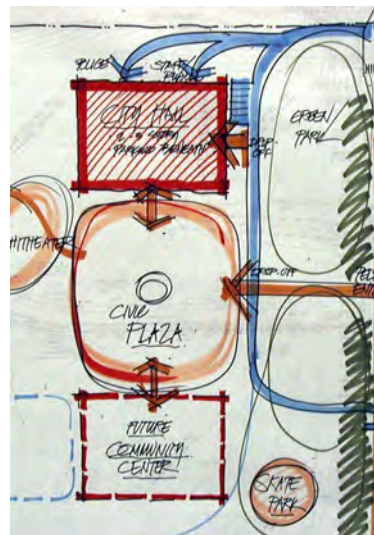
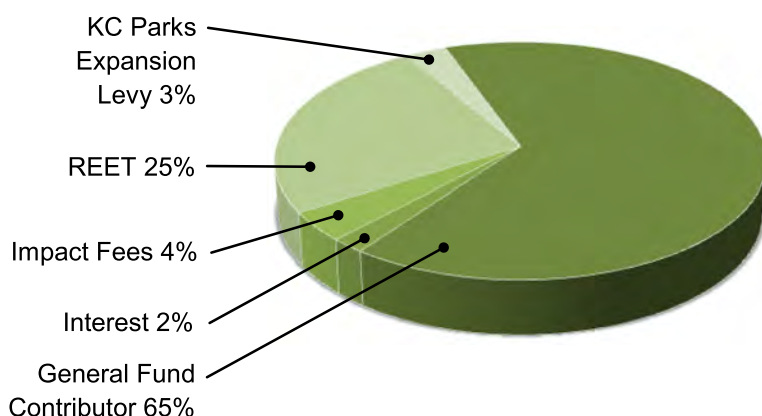
Funding

The funding for parks, recreation, arts, volunteer programs, and services (also known as operations) comes from the city's general fund, user fees and grants. Historically, revenues for the Parks CIP are received from the general fund, real estate excise taxes, state and federal park grants, parks development impact funds, and various intergovernmental sources.¹



Figure 9.1: Parks CIP Revenues by Category ²

2011 & 2012 Parks CIP Fund Revenues By Category



Implementation



The following provides more information on the various sources of funds available for the CIP.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

Collected from the sale of real estate in the city, REET is calculated based on the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages and other debts used to secure the purchase. The state levies its portion of this tax at 1.28 percent. Cities are also authorized to impose a local tax of 0.5 percent. Half of the city's portion must be used primarily for local capital improvements as identified in the capital-facilities plan element of the city's comprehensive plan. The other half must be used to fund capital projects in transportation. Through December 31, 2016 the greater of \$100,000 or 35 percent of available funds (not to exceed \$1 million dollars) may be used for maintenance and operations of existing capital projects that were eligible for REET construction funding.



Park Impact Fees

Impact fees reimburse local governments for the capital cost of creating public facilities that are needed to serve residents of new developments. Impact fees can be used only for park acquisition and development; they cannot be used for operating or maintenance expenses.³

General Fund

The general fund was established to provide the services typically offered by local governments and derives its funding primarily from local tax sources. The fund is allocated to nine City of Sammamish departments: City Council, city manager, city attorney, finance, administrative services, technology services, community development, parks and recreation, and public works. Funds may be transferred from the general fund to the CIP fund as designated in the city's biennial budget.

King County Parks Expansion Levy

A six-year King County levy-lid lift was approved by voters for collection beginning in 2008. The levy is 5 cents per thousand with 1 cent per thousand allocated to cities in King County. The levy amount changes annually with the Consumer Price Index. These funds may be used to acquire open space and natural lands and for development of regional trails.





Implementation

Additional possible funding sources include:

Bond Financing

There are several bond mechanisms used for parks and recreation. The creation and flow of bond revenues involve public-debt financing and in some instances require legal approval, voter consideration, or both.

General Obligation Bond Funds

These are primarily used for developing public facilities when it is appropriate to finance long-term debt with a new revenue source. Typically, general obligation bonds are funded through an increase in property tax for a specified time. This financing is subject to voter approval. Under a voted general obligation bond, voters would authorize a city to increase property taxes to pay debt service on the bond. To be approved, the ballot measure must receive 60 percent approval and the total number of yes votes must at least be equal to 40 percent of the number of voters who turned out for the most recent general election. State law limits the amount of voted general obligation bonds that a city can issue to 2.5 percent of the city's assessed value.

Councilmanic (Limited Tax) Bonds

The governing body of a city can vote to issue limited tax bonds. These bonds do not need a dedicated source of payment, such as a property tax levy, but rather would be secured by pledge of the city to pay debt service from existing revenues. State law limits the amount of limited tax bonds that a city can issue to 1.5 percent of the city's assessed value.

Special Assessment

Special assessments may be created where the public benefit can be clearly defined, there is a public purpose, and the total assessment does not exceed the cost of the improvement and related bond financing.

Revenue Bond Funds

Revenue bonds encompass a range of financing mechanisms and are a form of debt that is retired by means other than taxes. For the purposes of project development, revenue-bonding procedures may be used based on authorizing statutes or based on leasehold values of land, facilities, and operating entities that create a cash flow



Implementation



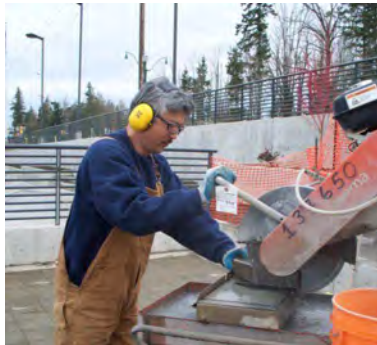
sufficient to pay the bond principal and interest. Leasehold is a property held by a lease.

User Fees

The funding structure usually preferred by recreation agencies is a system of individual activity fees. Such a system allows the parks department to offer some activities free of charge while defraying operating costs for intensive activities such as league sports, aquatics, and specialized recreation activities. In most cases, user fees cover operating costs only, but in some cases excess revenues may be applied to pay down capital debt.

Also, the department may charge fees for special-use park facilities as well as entrance fees, plus activity fees, at other facilities such as athletic fields or recreation centers.

The actual fee schedule is established by policy and may be subject to periodic review. User fee schedules should take into account market values for public recreation services. User fees typically do not cover all costs for parks and recreation and thus should be considered an offset of a portion of program operations and maintenance expenses.



Metropolitan Park District (MPD)

The City may request public support for the formation of an MPD, a special-purpose district similar to other special purpose districts such as a water or sewer district. Formation of an MPD authorizes an additional property tax to support parks and recreation services. Although the MPD is technically a separate entity, state law allows an MPD formed wholly within a city to be governed by its city council. In other words, formation of an MPD does not require creation of a separate governing body.

Joint Development/Partnerships

Partnerships with public, private or nonprofit entities can stretch development dollars for acquisition, operations and maintenance, or infrastructure development. Examples include golf courses, aquatic centers, amusement parks, sports centers, theater or performing arts facilities, arenas and many other partnerships tied to recreation services. A recent example of a joint venture is the partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Club to remodel and operate the Recreation Center.





Implementation

Joint Use

Short of jointly developing a project, there may be opportunities for partnership such as creating joint-use parking with an adjacent public or private facility, reducing the cost of the new facility (parking, surface-water retention, etc.).

Philanthropy

Contributions from private donors may provide an excellent source of capital and operation funding as well as leverage to obtain matching funding.

Easements

Interlocal agreements, rights of way, conservation areas and property used for utilities or other public purposes where parks and recreation assets such as trails, pathways and open playfields may be developed may provide partnership opportunities to help offset the cost of development.

Grants

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

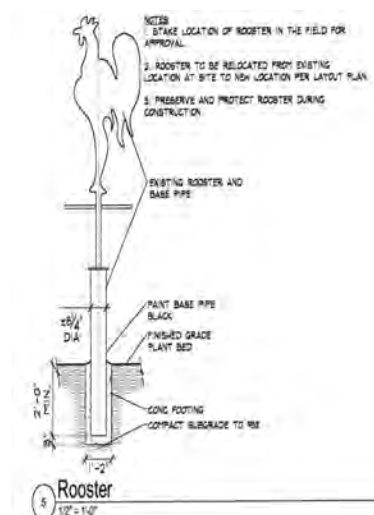
This state agency manages grant programs to support outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near-extinction. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis for several recreation grant programs.

Conservation Futures

A portion of property taxes collected throughout King County and its cities goes for the purchase and permanent protection of open-space lands.

King Conservation District

The King Conservation District awards grants for projects that directly improve the condition of natural resources, provide education, and implement pilot or demonstration projects.





Conclusion

The City of Sammamish maintains a high-quality parks system, a source of pride for the community and city leaders. But a good parks system requires maintenance, renovation, redevelopment and expansion, especially as the community continues to grow. As such, the City has developed a list of parks improvement projects, and it is expected that the list will grow.

Because the City cannot fund all of the projects, prioritizing has helped to identify the most important projects for the next six years. The public, city staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission all contributed to the development of the CIP. Those projects that cannot be funded in the six-year plan will remain on the list for reconsideration in the future.



The City Council approved the 2013 – 2018 CIP at a regular meeting on May 14, 2012. The CIP is updated every two years as part of the biennial budget process.

Notes

1. City of Sammamish 2011 – 2012 Biennial Budget, “Investing in Our Community.” City of Sammamish Finance Department.
2. City of Sammamish Finance Department.
3. Henderson, Young & Company. Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities, City of Sammamish, Washington, November 2, 2006.





Appendix **A**



City of Sammamish PRO Plan Survey July 2010

HR HEBERT RESEARCH, INC.
www.HebertResearch.com



Executive Summary
City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation
2010 Community Survey for PRO Plan

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Background and Research Goal

The Sammamish Parks & Recreation department's role is to manage parks and facilities, provide recreation services, implement and maintain trails, greenways and preserves, and to be an integral part of open space planning and resource management. To assist in its strategic planning, the department has previously commissioned Hebert Research to conduct surveys of Sammamish citizens in 2006 and 2008. The current research continues these efforts, and has been designed to assess citizen satisfaction with existing services, as well as opinions and preferences regarding potential new or expanded programs.

An area of particular focus is the proposal to construct an aquatic and/or community center within Sammamish. This research examines several issues related to these facilities, including overall level of interest, desired features and programs, and preferred location. It also assesses how likely citizens would be to support these facilities given several prospective increases to property tax rates.



Research Objectives

To address the strategic goals discussed above, this research has been designed to address the following specific objectives:

General

- Assess how frequently residents use existing Parks and Recreation facilities and services.
- Assess residents' satisfaction with existing Parks and Recreation facilities and services.
- Identify the sources of information that residents use to learn about the City's Parks and Recreation programs.
- Assess the likelihood that residents would use certain new or improved parks and recreation facilities.
- Determine what general areas (e.g. parks, sports fields, community center, or trails) residents believe should be the City's top priority.
- Gauge residents' interest in participating in a focus group to discuss parks and recreation issues, and build a list of interested individuals.

Aquatic and Community Center

- Assess the likelihood that residents would use the proposed aquatic center.
- Identify the type of aquatic center facilities and programs that residents are most interested in.
- Assess the likelihood that residents would use the proposed community center.
- Identify the type of community center facilities and programs that residents are most interested in.
- Determine residents' preferred location for the aquatic and community center.
- Gauge residents' willingness to fund the aquatic and community center through increased property taxes.

Open Space Trails

- Assess residents' satisfaction with the City's existing trail system.
- Determine what activities residents currently use the trail system for.
- Gauge the level of interest in new trails, bikeways and paths.
- Determine which locations residents would like new trail projects to connect to and where.

Parks

- Gauge residents' level of interest in land acquisition for new parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.
- Gauge residents' level of interest in improvements to athletic fields in the City.
- Identify what types of amenities residents would most prefer the City to include in future parks.
- Determine how important it is for residents to be able to walk to parks facilities, and how far they are willing to walk to these facilities.
- Assess whether residents believe adequate parking is available at parks facilities.

Health and Wellness

- Identify how important residents believe parks and recreation facilities to be for improving health and wellness in the community.

Arts and Cultural Programs

- Identify what types of arts and cultural programs residents have recently attended.
- Determine what types of arts and cultural programs residents would most like the City to offer.
- Identify what public art features residents would prefer to be included in the new Sammamish Town Center.

Comparative

- Determine whether resident opinions on the above issues vary based on demographics (age and gender).
- Compare results from the 2010 survey to previous City of Sammamish surveys to identify changes and trends in attitudes.

Research Methodology

Sampling Frame

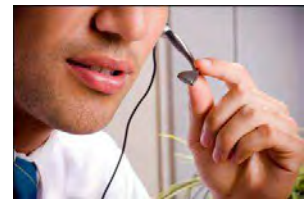
The sampling frame consists of 400 residents of the City of Sammamish.

Questionnaire

The survey questionnaire, created in collaboration with the City of Sammamish, included a total of 35 questions. A copy of the questionnaire is attached at the end of this report.

Telephone Survey

The research employed a survey using interactive voice. This method allowed both inbound and outbound contact: respondents could call researchers back if necessary. Call efficiency was aided electronically through a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, which randomly selects participants from the call list and prompts with the questions to be asked. The system enables real time data capture during the interview. Potential participants unable to complete the survey during contact, were called up to five times, on different days and at different times during evening and weekend hours.



Sampling (when research assistants participated in data collection) took place between July 1st and July 7th, 2010. The response rate, which is defined by the percent of respondents contacted who agreed to take the full survey, was 67.2%.

Online Survey



An online version of the survey was posted on the City of Sammamish's website with a link on the main page, programmed by Hebert Research staff. Additionally, respondents who declined to take the telephone survey were informed of the available online format option and directed to the City of Sammamish's website if they chose to participate in the research project at another time. The online survey was active from July 2, 2010 to July 19, 2010.

Due to differences in scheduling and phrasing (as well as providing the ability to continue offering the online survey once the telephone survey was complete), data from the online survey was not combined with the phone survey results, and is not included in this report. A forthcoming, straightforward document will report on the results of the online survey and provide univariate runs and data sheets.

Weighting

For univariate data, combined figures have been weighted to be representative of the demographic distribution of the sampled population. Responses have been weighted by gender and age group. See the “respondent profile” section for more information on the unweighted and weighted demographic breakdown of the research.

Analysis

The data gathered was analyzed using well accepted univariate measures of central tendency. Where appropriate, we have included descriptive statistics for continuous (quantifiable) responses. Means represents the average value of the responses. Standard deviation indicates the level of variation in responses: for normally distributed data, approximately 2/3 of responses fall with one standard deviation above or below the mean. Skewness measures the level of symmetry in response: a positive skewness indicates that most responses fall on the left (low) side of the graph, and vice versa. Kurtosis measures the peakedness of the data: in a positive kurtosis distribution, there are pronounced peaks with high frequencies. If kurtosis is negative, responses are more evenly distributed throughout the range.



Multivariate analyses were conducted to examine if differences existed between all combinations of respondent age, gender, race, income, and insurer. Data on the multivariate testing is reported only when significant trends were found on a given question. The multivariate analysis consisted of t-tests, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Chi Square tests, as appropriate for the variables being tested. The statistical procedures utilized were applied with a 95% confidence level for estimating values and/or providing significant inferences. Statistical significance is measured by a p -value; if $p \leq 0.05$, the statistical test is significant; if $p > 0.05$, the statistical test is not significant.



The null hypothesis that was tested was the mean ratings for various variables were similar (95% confidence level) regardless of age, gender, race, income, etc. We have also included measures of association (Eta^2 for ANOVA, and *Cramer's V* for Chi Square). These measures indicate what proportion of the variance in the dependent variable is due to the independent variable being examined.

When similar questions were asked in previous City of Sammamish surveys, we have included longitudinal comparisons of the data from each year. This assists in detecting changes in public opinion over time. Any notable differences in the phrasing or structure of the questions have been indicated in the descriptions.

Hebert Research has made every effort to produce the highest quality research product possible within the agreed specifications, budget and time schedule. Hebert Research uses those statistical techniques which, in its opinion, are the most accurate possible.

However, inherent in any statistical process is a possibility of error, which must be taken into account in evaluating the results. Statistical research can predict respondent attitudes and behavior only as of the time of the sampling, within the parameters of the project, and within the margin of error inherent within the techniques used.

Evaluations and interpretations of statistical research findings, and decisions based on them, are solely the responsibility of the customer and not that of Hebert Research. The conclusions, summaries and interpretations provided by Hebert Research are based strictly on the analysis of the data gathered and are not to be construed as recommendations. Therefore, Hebert Research neither warrants their viability nor assumes responsibility for the success or failure of any customer actions subsequently taken based on these findings.

Respondent Profile

Gender

The survey slightly oversampled female respondents, which is a common phenomenon in telephone research as women are generally more likely to answer the phone. To correct for this, responses were weighted to reach the approximately 50-50 gender distribution in Sammamish.

Gender	Number Sampled	Percent of Sample (Unweighted)	Percent of Sample (Weighted)
Male	166	41.5	49.6
Female	234	58.5	50.4

Age

As the table below indicates, the age distribution of the sampled respondents was very close to the actual demographic makeup of Sammamish. The adult population of Sammamish is concentrated toward middle-aged individuals, with the largest age segments being 35-44 and 45-54 year olds.

Age Group	Number Sampled	Percent of Sample (Unweighted)	Percent of Sample (Weighted)
18-24	31	7.8	6.4
25-34	59	14.8	12.1
35-44	135	33.8	29.4
45-54	111	27.8	29.3
55-64	39	9.8	15.0
65+	25	6.3	7.7

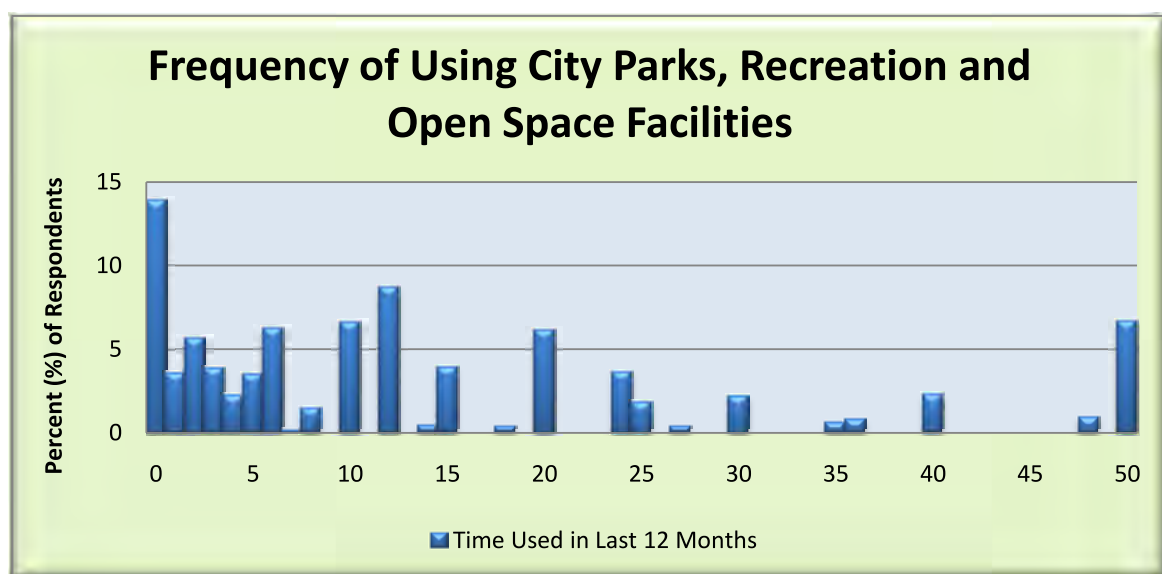
Home Ownership

Home ownership status was included as a demographic category in order to test for differences in opinions about property tax increases. The overwhelming majority of respondents (98%) own their own home. Due to the small sample of renters, multivariate analysis was not conducted with respect to home ownership status.

Home Ownership	Number Sampled	Percent of Sample
Owner	384	98.0
Renter	8	2.0
Total	392	100%

Frequency of Using Parks & Rec. Facilities in the Last 12 Months

Residents were asked how many times they had used parks, recreation and open space facilities in the City of Sammamish in the last 12 months. Responses to this question varied widely, ranging from no use at all, to use every single day. Although the single largest group (13.9%) reported zero uses, the vast majority of the sample used parks facilities at least once. Slightly over half of the respondents (55.9%) used parks less than 12 times per year, or once per month on average, whereas 44.1% made more than one visit per month on average.



> 50 times per year	Percent	> 50 times per year	Percent
52	2.0%	180	0.5%
60	0.7%	182	0.3%
70	0.1%	183	0.2%
89	0.3%	200	1.6%
90	0.2%	230	0.2%
100	3.0%	250	0.6%
120	0.7%	300	1.3%
150	0.2%	330	0.2%
156	0.1%	363	0.2%
160	0.4%	365	0.7%
175	0.2%	180	0.5%

Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
34.30	63.43	3.25	11.15

Multivariate Analysis

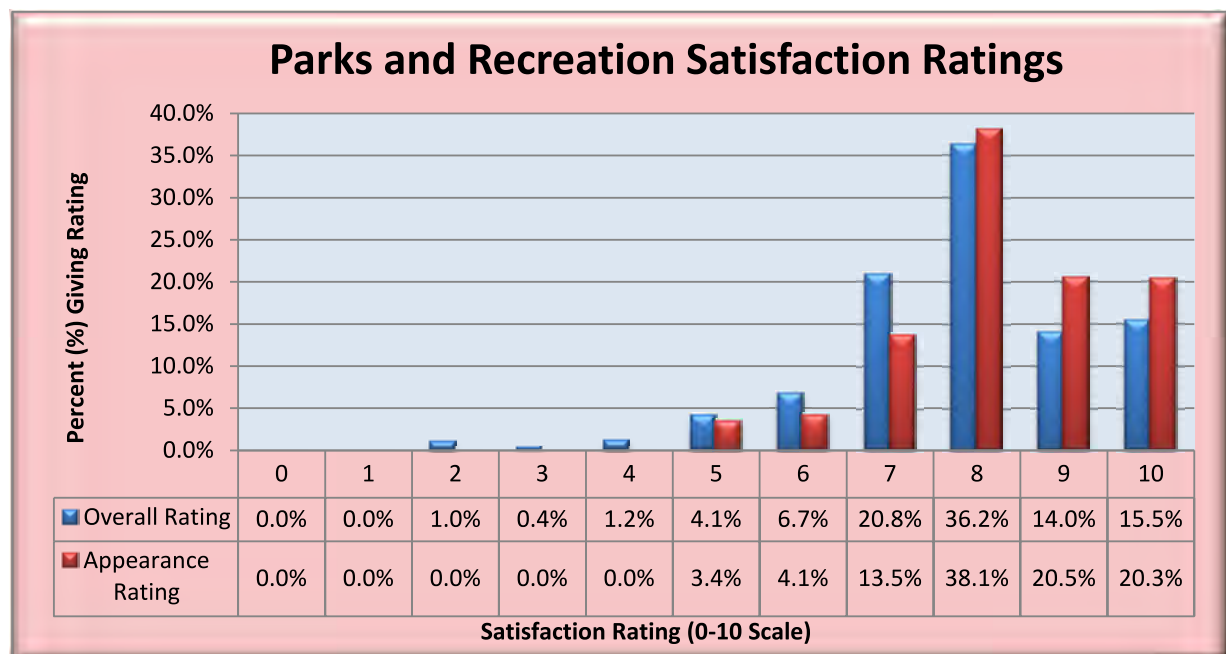
Women, on average, used parks significantly more in the past 12 months than did men ($p = 0.029$, $\text{Eta}^2 = 0.012$). A possible explanation is that, among families with children, women may be more likely to take children to parks.

Gender	Mean Number of Times Used
Male	27.26
Female	41.17

Overall Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Parks and Recreation facilities and services, and to rate their satisfaction with the appearances of these facilities. Both ratings were conducted on a 0-10 scale, where 0 means “not at all satisfied” and 10 means “highly satisfied.”

Ratings for both questions were generally strong, with means of 7.86 for overall satisfaction and 8.29 for satisfaction with appearance. For both issues the most common rating was an 8. Only a handful of residents rated their overall satisfaction a 4 or below, and *no* residents gave a rating of 4 or below on appearance.



	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Overall Satisfaction	7.86	1.50	-0.89	1.82
Satisfaction with Appearance	8.29	1.24	-0.49	0.10

Multivariate Analysis

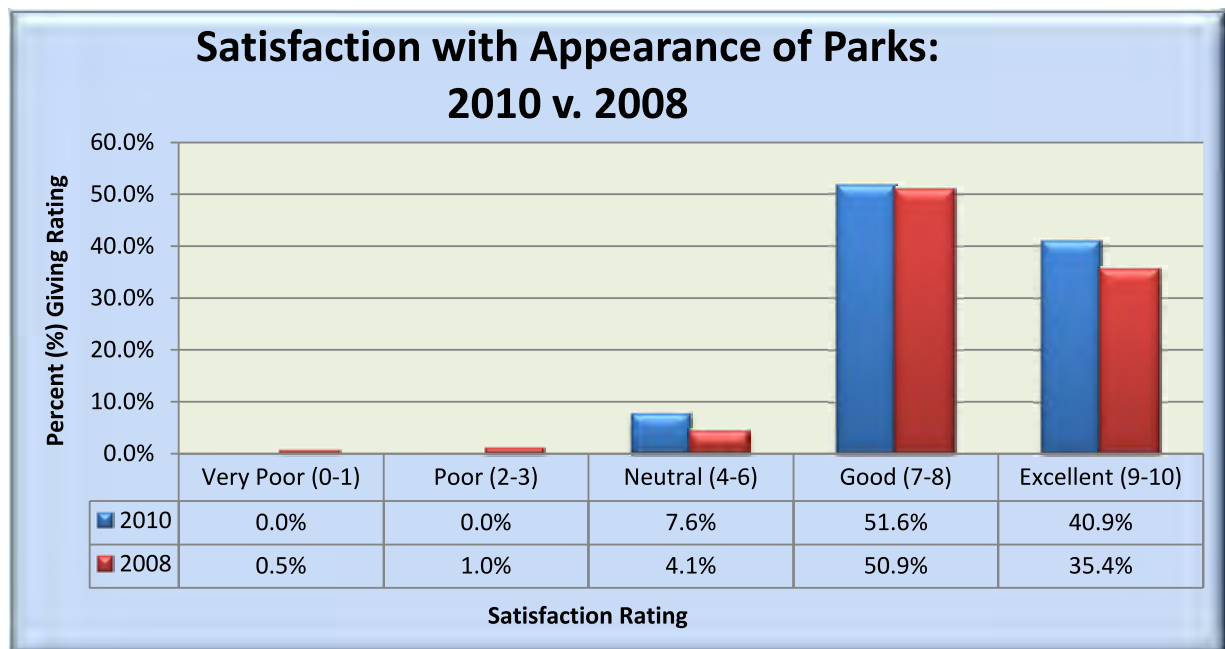
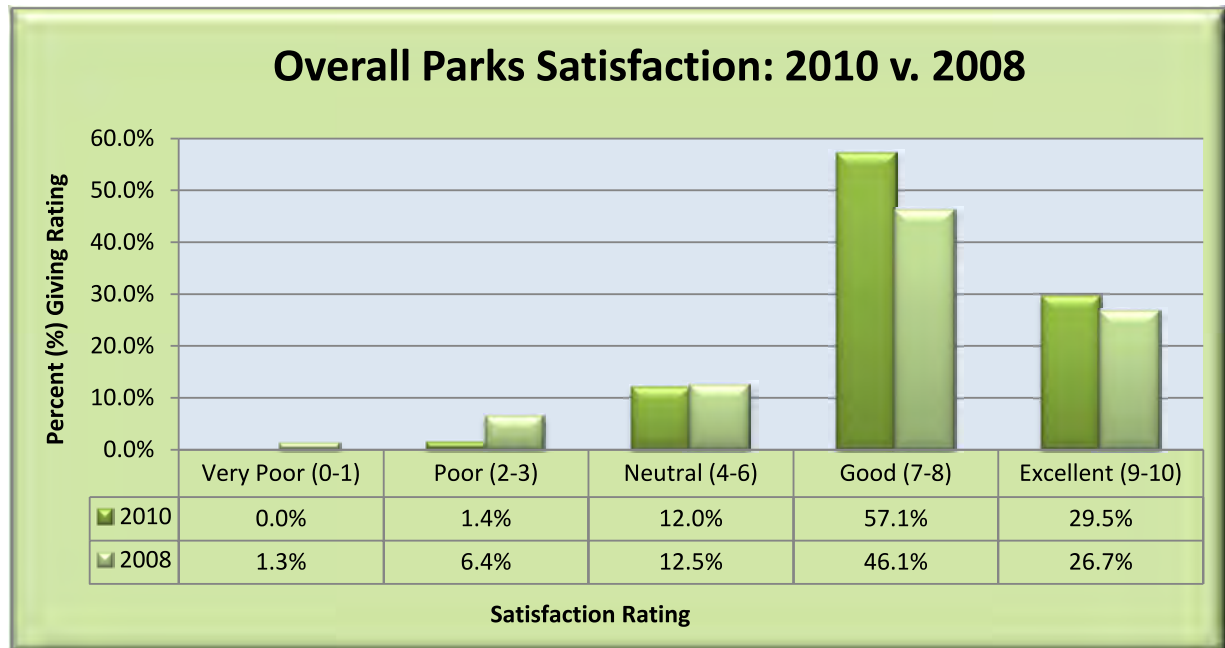
Women gave a significantly higher rating for parks appearance than did men ($p = 0.007$, $\text{Eta}^2 = 0.021$).

Gender	Mean Number of Times Used
Male	8.11
Female	8.47

Longitudinal Analysis: Overall Satisfaction and Appearance

The 2008 Sammamish Community Survey included questions measuring overall satisfaction with parks, as well as a rating for the appearance of parks. The 2008 survey used a 5-point scale, rather than the 0-10 scale employed in the current research. To allow for a comparison, the 2010 data has been grouped into the five-point scale, as shown in the data table below.

For both overall satisfaction and appearance, the 2010 results show a slight improvement in overall satisfaction. This suggests that the City has been able to maintain, and even improve, the high satisfaction reported in 2008.



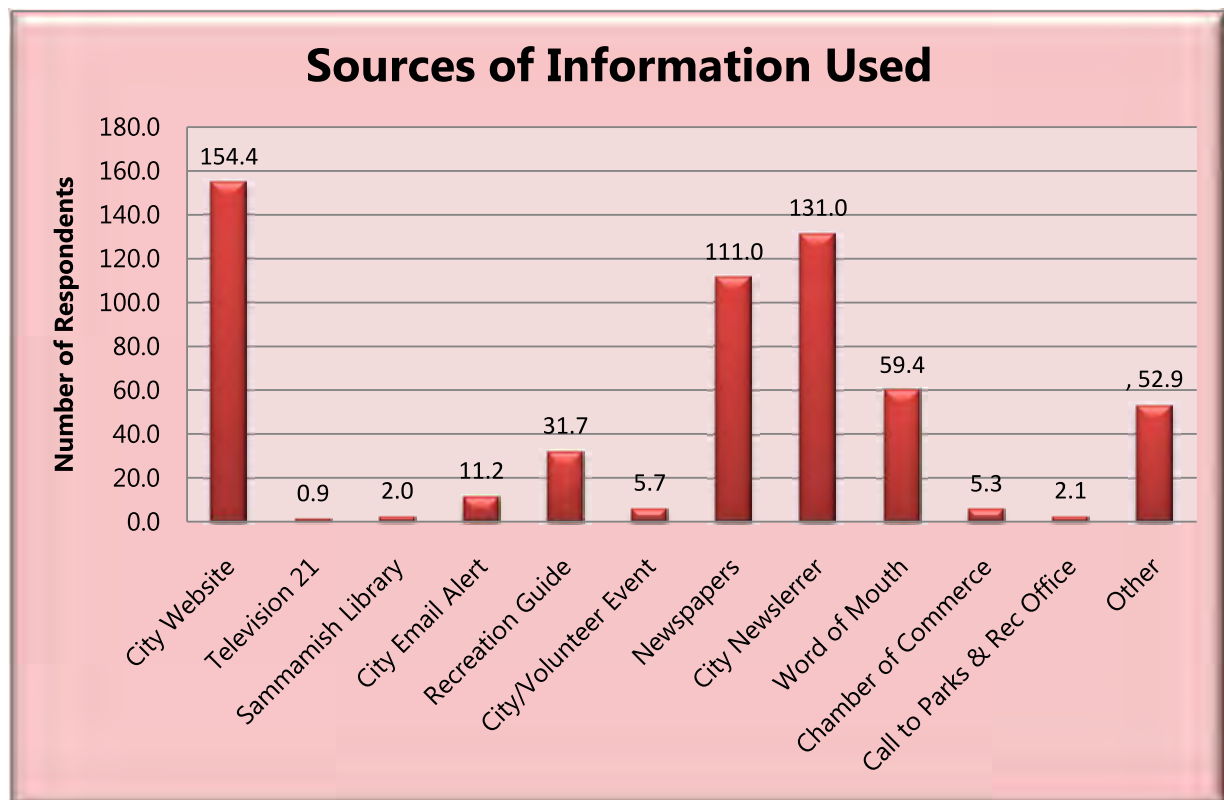
Sources of Information Used to Learn About Parks and Recreation Programs

Residents next reported which sources of information they use to find out about parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs, and cultural arts opportunities in Sammamish. A list of options was not provided (meaning the respondents were unaided in responses), and respondents could mention multiple information sources if they preferred (thus the total sum is greater than the number of respondents).

The most frequently used information sources include the City's website (154.4 weighted users), followed by the City newsletter (131.0), and newspapers (111). These responses suggest that the information sources produced by the City are highly important for informing the public about parks programs.

Responses categorized as "Other" include:

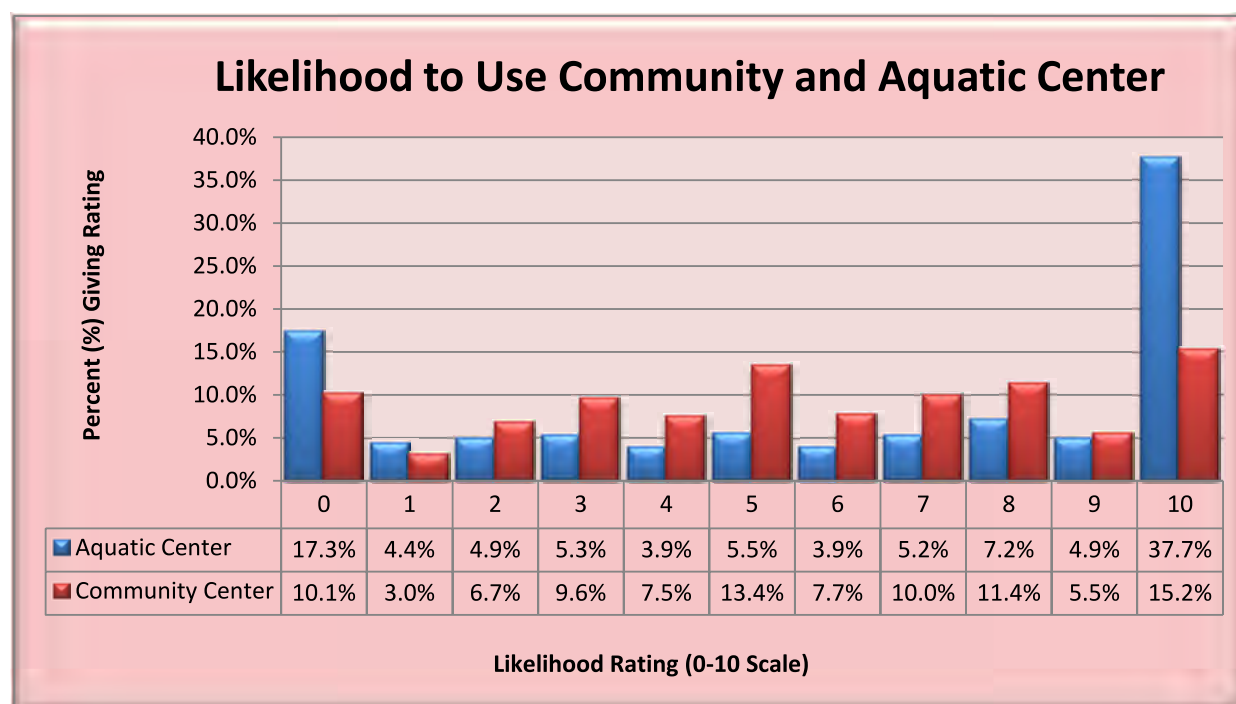
- Internet sources other than the city website, such as search engines and local news websites (20)
- Signs and banners (16)
- Flyers (7)
- Visiting or driving by parks facilities (5)
- Personal knowledge or experience (3)



Likelihood to Use Community and Aquatic Center

Overall, Sammamish residents reported a moderate likelihood to use a proposed aquatic center, with a mean rating of 6.11. However, the largest groups of people expressed either a very high or very low likelihood: 37.7% gave a rating of 10 (highly likely), while the next largest group, 17.3%, gave a rating of 0 (highly unlikely). Comparatively few respondents actually gave scores in the moderate range (4-6). Thus, while responses were mixed, a very substantial portion of the population is highly likely to use the aquatic center.

Residents also rated their or their family's likelihood to use the proposed community center. The mean rating, 5.50, is slightly lower than the 6.11 mean rating for the aquatic center ($p = 0.017$). Responses were fairly evenly distributed across the scale, with about equal proportions of high, medium and low levels of likelihood. This contrasts with the aquatic center's pronounced peaks at 0 and 10.



	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Likelihood to Use Aquatic Center	6.11	3.95	-4.36	-1.44
Likelihood to Use Community Center	5.50	3.17	-0.19	-1.05

Multivariate Analysis

Respondent ratings for likelihood to use the aquatic center varied among age groups ($p < 0.001$, $Eta^2 = 0.121$). The most likely users were those aged 35-44 and 45-54, while residents over 65 were least likely to use. It is possible that the peak in likelihood to use is because those aged 35-44 are more likely to have children who will use the aquatic center.

Age Group (Aquatic Center)	Mean Rating
18-24	5.73
25-34	5.52
35-44	7.76
45-54	6.51
55-64	3.67
65+	4.54

Likelihood to use a community center varied by both gender. ($p < 0.001$, $Eta^2 = 0.034$) and age ($p < 0.001$, $Eta^2 = 0.066$). The distribution with respect to age is similar to the aquatic center: residents ranging from 35 to 54 were the most likely to use, and those over 65 were least likely to use. Again, the presence of children may drive the rate up for likely users. Regarding gender, females reported a significantly higher likelihood to use than did men.

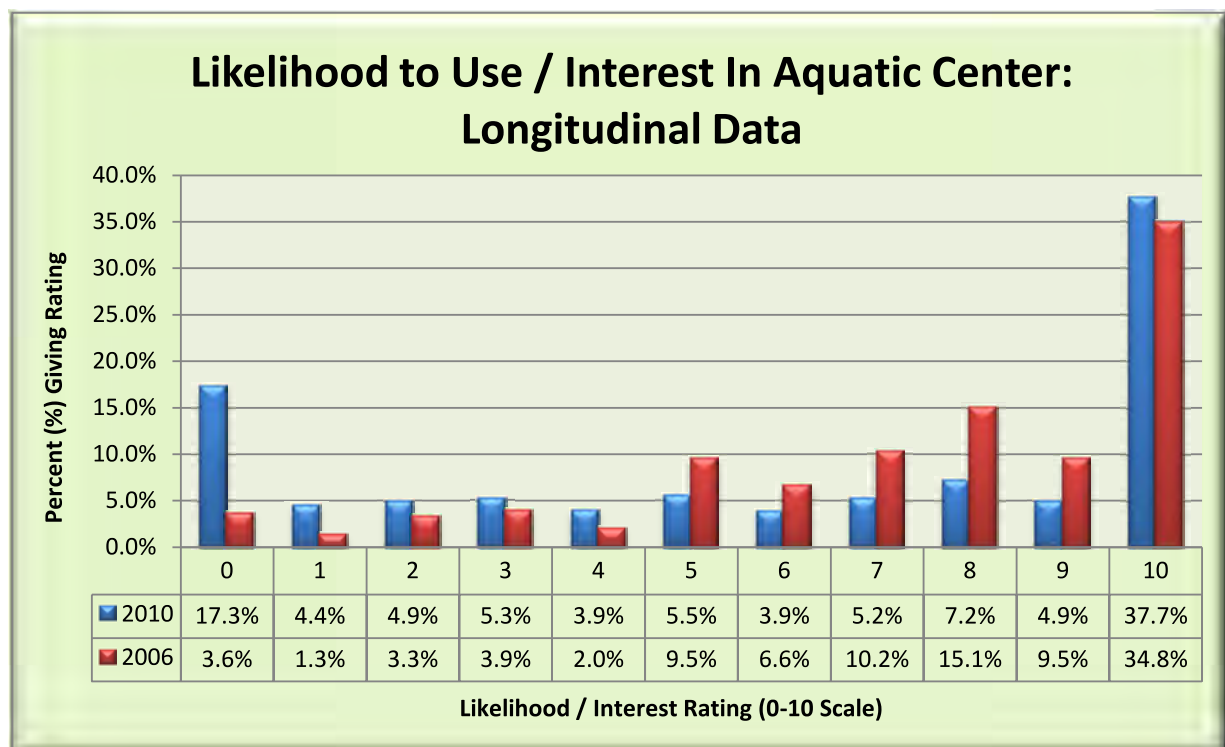
Age Group (Community Center)	Mean Rating
18-24	4.57
25-34	4.99
35-44	6.33
45-54	5.83
55-64	5.12
65+	3.46

Gender (Community Center)	Mean Rating
Male	4.92
Female	6.09

Longitudinal Analysis: Likelihood to Use / Interest in Aquatic Center

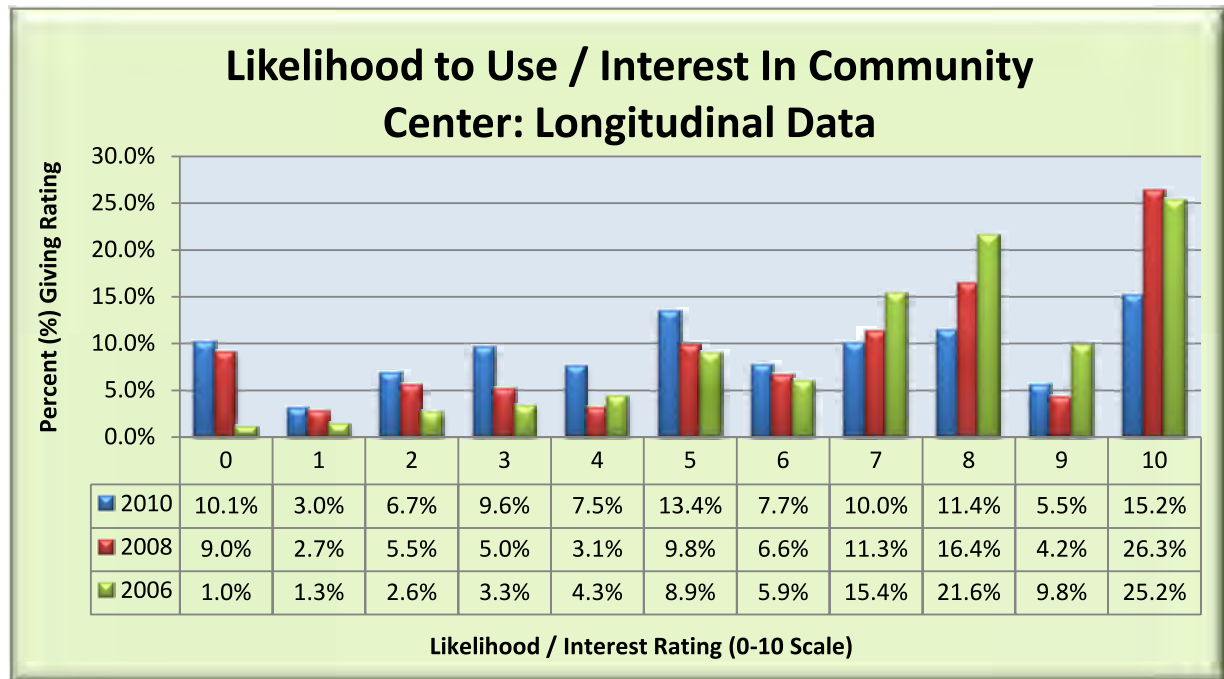
The 2006 Sammamish Parks survey also surveyed attitudes toward a proposed aquatic center, though the 2006 question was phrased in terms of interest rather than likelihood to use.

The rating for the aquatic center fell from 7.42 in 2006 to 6.11 in 2010. In particular, the 2010 data included a markedly higher portion of zero responses; however, this may be due to the formulation of the question -- some residents may not plan to use the facility themselves, but may still be interested in having available for others to use. One respondent expressed this sentiment: "I would like a place to bring my grandchildren . . . I myself would not use it. I don't care to swim in it but my family would. I don't like swimming pools."



Year of Data	Mean Rating
2010 (likelihood to use)	6.11
2006 (interest)	7.42

Interest in the community center was canvassed in 2008 as well as 2006. As the table below shows, the mean rating has steadily declined over the last four years.



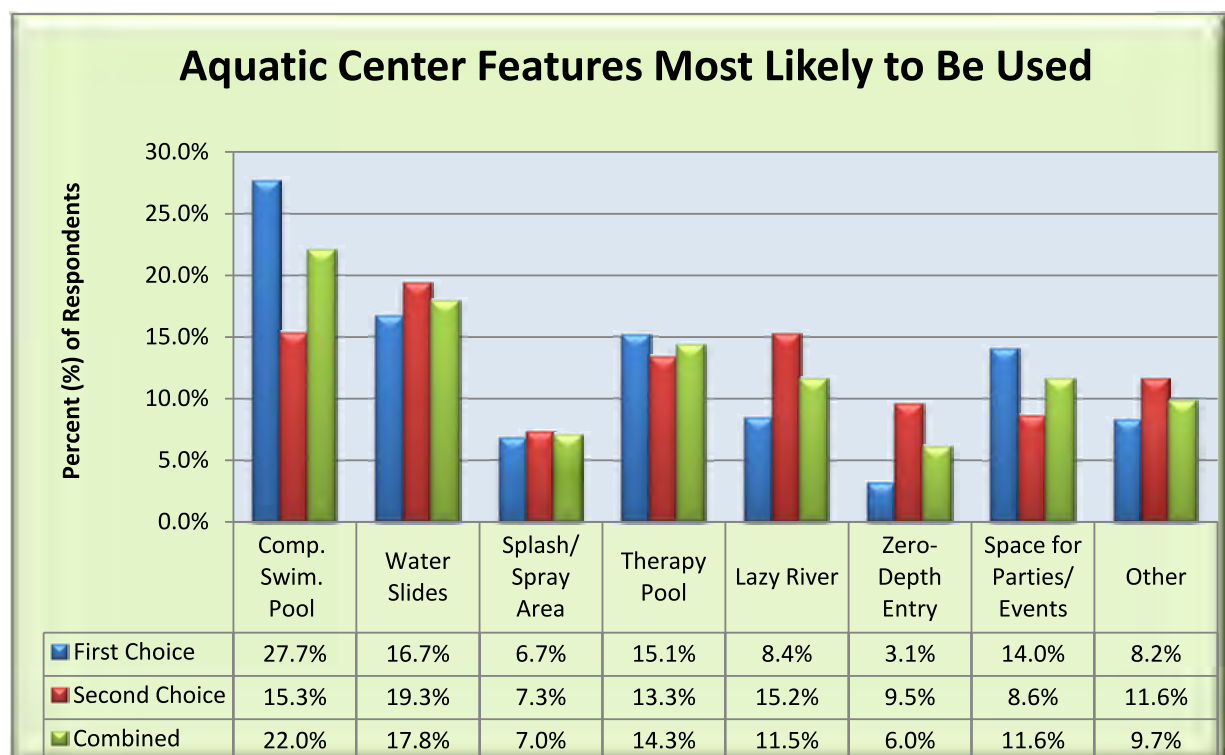
Year of Data	Mean Rating
2010 (likelihood to use)	5.50
2008 (interest)	6.42
2006 (interest)	7.40

Aquatic Center Features Most Likely to Use

Using a list of proposed aquatic center features, respondents were asked to choose the top two features they and/or their families would be most likely to use. The most selected feature was a competitive swimming pool (22.0% of total combined responses), followed by water slides (17.8%). The features least selected were the splash and spray area (7.0%), and zero depth entry pool (6.0%).

If a resident's preferred feature was not included in the list provided, he or she could also select the "other" category and describe. A large number of "other" responses mentioned certain programs and activities, such as family and lap swimming, rather than physical features. (The next question dealt with preferred programs and activities). Additional "other" responses endorsed the following features:

- Diving board (2)
- Sauna (1)
- Kiddy Pool (1)
- Wave Pool (1)



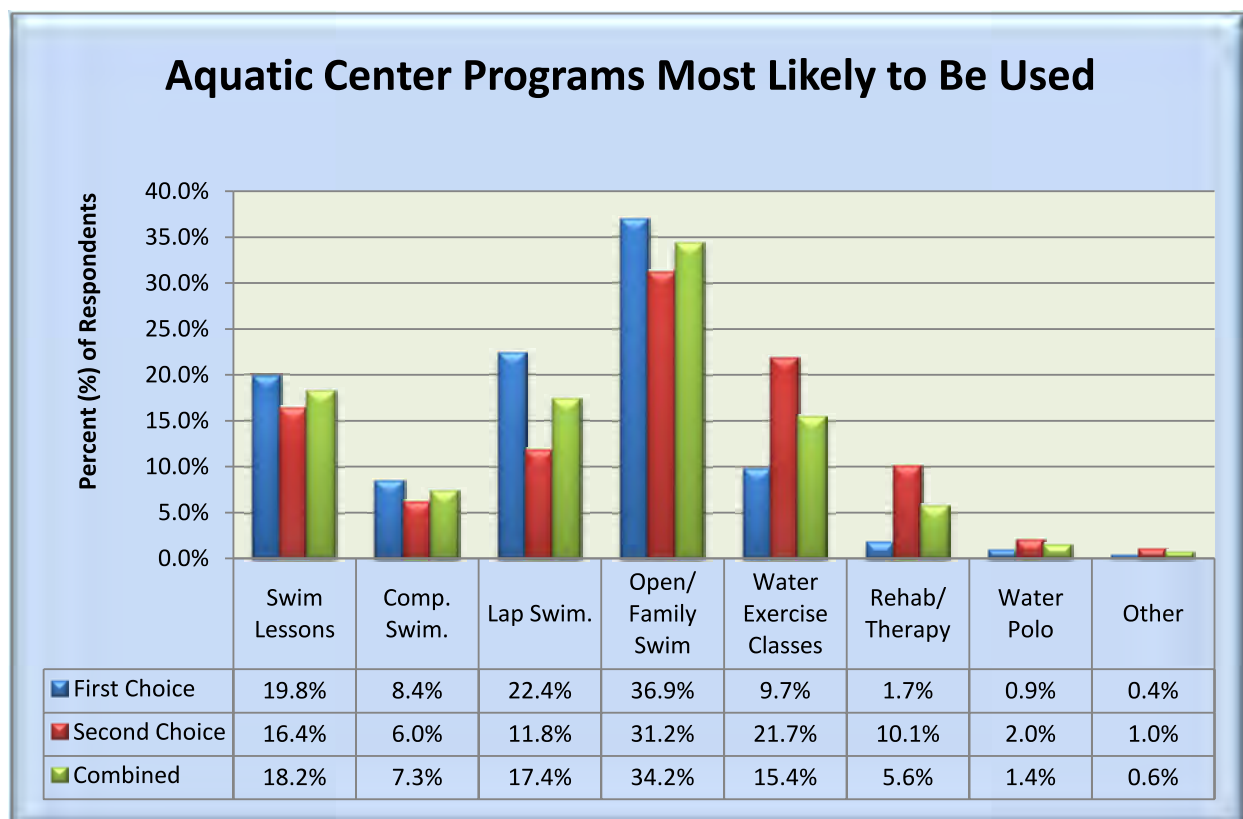
Aquatic Center Programs Most Likely to Participate In

Next, respondents were also asked to choose the top two programs they would most likely use at an aquatic center. By a considerable margin, the most selected option was open/family swim, with 34.2% of total combined responses. This suggests that residents would prefer a substantial portion of the aquatic center resources be set aside for open swimming rather than more specialized activities.

Other frequent choices included swim lessons (18.2%), lap swimming (17.4%) and water exercise classes (15.4%). Lower levels of interest were expressed in competitive swimming (7.3%), water therapy and rehabilitation (5.6%), and water polo (1.4%).

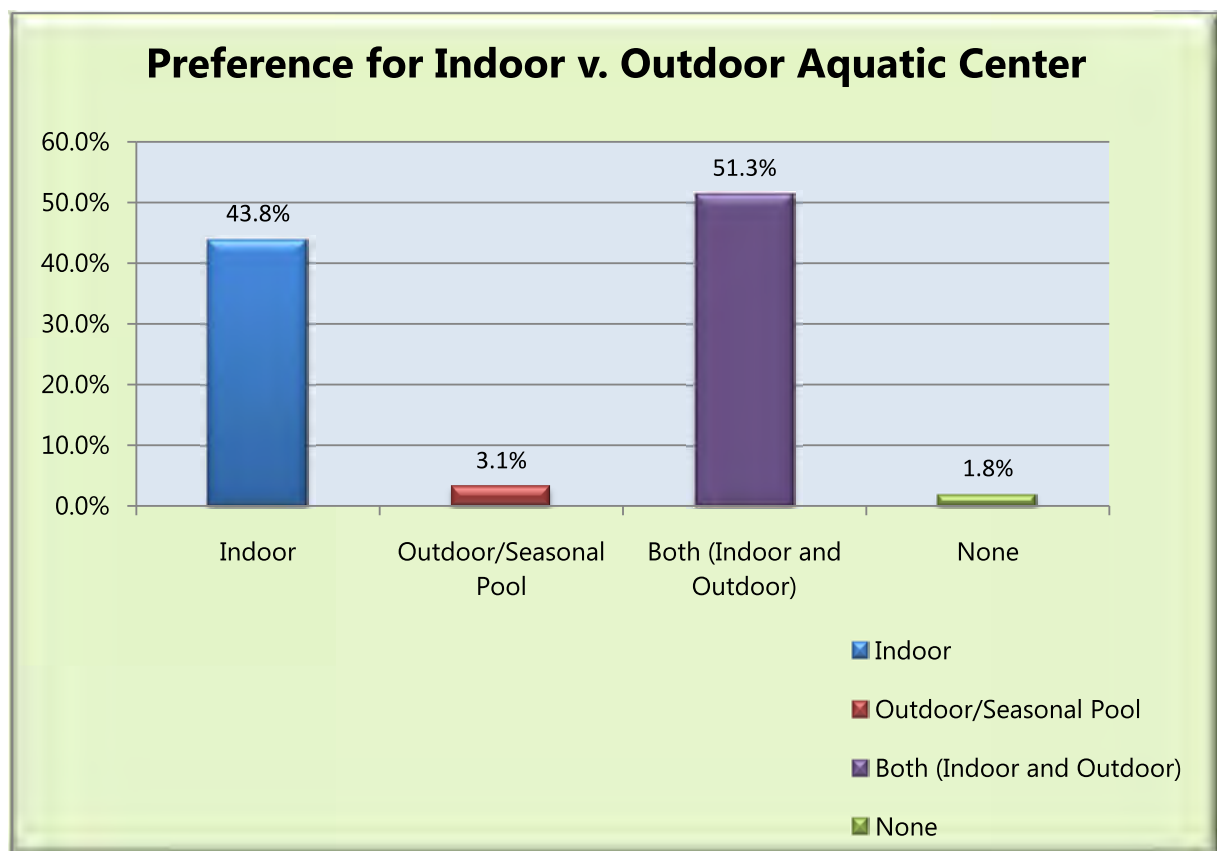
Responses categorized under "other" included:

- Diving (1)
- Masters Program (1)



Preference for Indoor v. Outdoor Aquatic Center

Respondents could also choose their preference among three options for the type of aquatic facility: indoor, outdoor (seasonal), combined indoor and outdoor, or none. The majority of respondents (51.3%) selected the combined option, while a substantial minority (43.8%) preferred an indoor only center. Very few (3.1%) respondents preferred outdoor only. Thus, it appears to be important that the aquatic center have year-round availability. It is also notable that the vast majority, 98.2% preferred some form of aquatic center to "none."



Multivariate Analysis

Responses to this question were compared against the previous question on likelihood to use the aquatic center, to determine whether the most likely users have distinct preferences. The most likely users (those who gave an 8-10 rating) preferred the combined indoor/outdoor option at a higher rate, while moderate and low likelihood users tended to prefer the indoor only option. Testing confirms that these differences are statistically significant ($p < 0.001$, *Cramer's V* = 0.263).

Likelihood to Use	Percent Giving Response		
	Indoor	Outdoor	Both
High (8-10)	35.5	2.5	61.9
Moderate (4-7)	56.2	5.5	38.4
Low (0-3)	51.7	1.7	36.2

Additionally, analysis showed that responses differed significantly by age groups ($p < 0.001$, *Cramer's V* = 0.195). Among respondents 55 and older, as well as those aged 25 to 34, the preferred option was an indoor-only pool. All other ages preferred a combined indoor/outdoor facility.

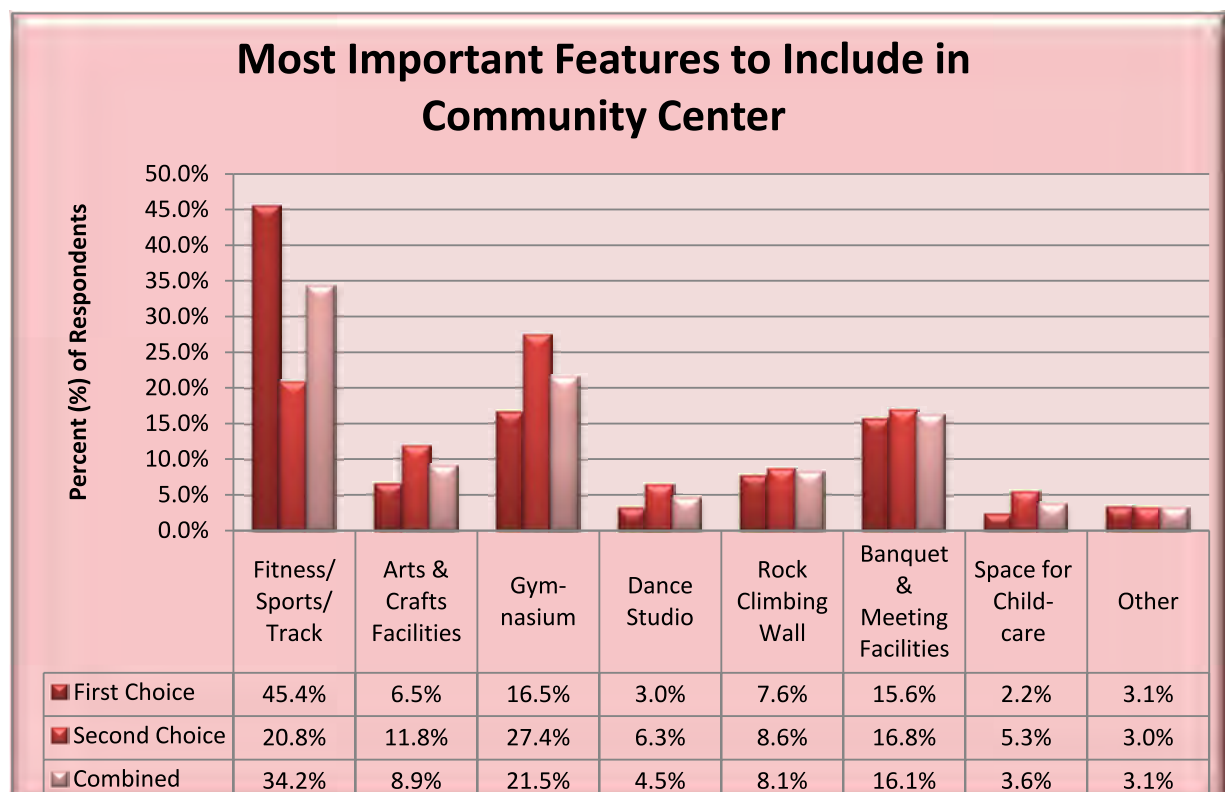
Age Group	Percent Giving Response		
	Indoor	Outdoor	Both
18-24	39.1	0.0	52.2
25-34	52.5	0.0	40.0
35-44	39.3	4.5	55.4
45-54	33.3	3.1	62.5
55-64	68.4	0.0	31.6
65+	59.9	9.1	31.8

Most Important Features to Include in Community Center

From a list of options, respondents selected their top two most important features to be included in the proposed community center. By far the most commonly selected option was a fitness center/indoor sports courts, and/or running and walking track (34.2% of total combined responses). A multipurpose gymnasium received the second most selections (21.5%), and banquet/meeting facilities with kitchen received the third most (16.1%). The least number of responses were for a dance studio (4.5%) and childcare space (3.6%).

Responses categorized under “other” include:

- Teen Center (4)
- Classroom Facilities (3)
- Ice Rink (2)
- Theater/TV Room (1)
- Senior Center (1)
- Farmers Market (1)

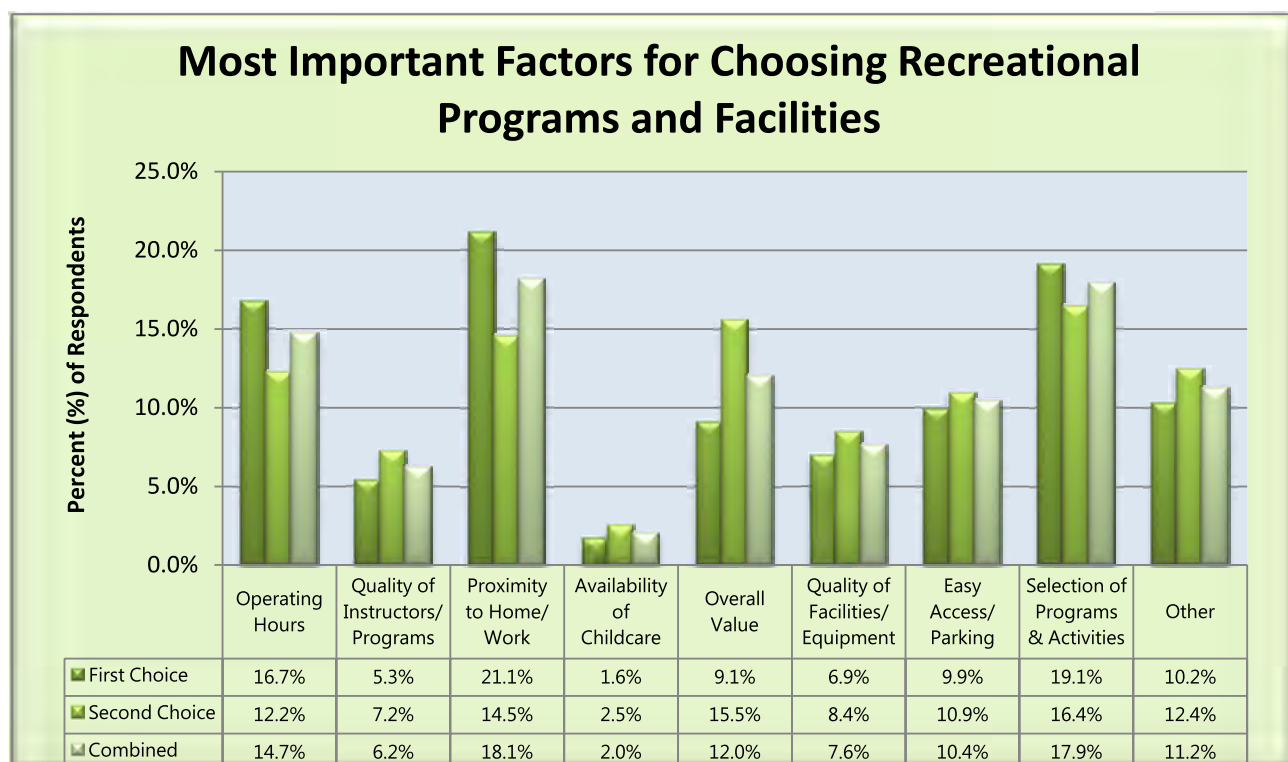


Most Important Factors in Choosing Recreational Programs and Facilities

The next question asked respondents to state the most important factors to them and their families when choosing recreational facilities and programs. Research assistants solicited open-ended responses and coded them into pre-selected categories. The most common response was "proximity to work or home" (121.9 total freighted votes), followed closely by "selection of programs and activities" (120.3) and "operating hours" (98.6). "Value" received 80.5 weighted votes, but in addition, 23 individuals gave "other" responses focusing on cost or price. Interestingly, "quality of facilities and equipment" (51.0) and "quality of instructors/programs" (41.4) were the least selected categories.

Responses that did not fall under a preselected category, and were thus grouped under "other," include:

- Price/cost (23)
- Cleanliness (11)
- Safety/security (11)
- Child/family friendly (7)
- Schedule of programs and events (7)
- Specific types of facilities (e.g. tennis courts) (5)



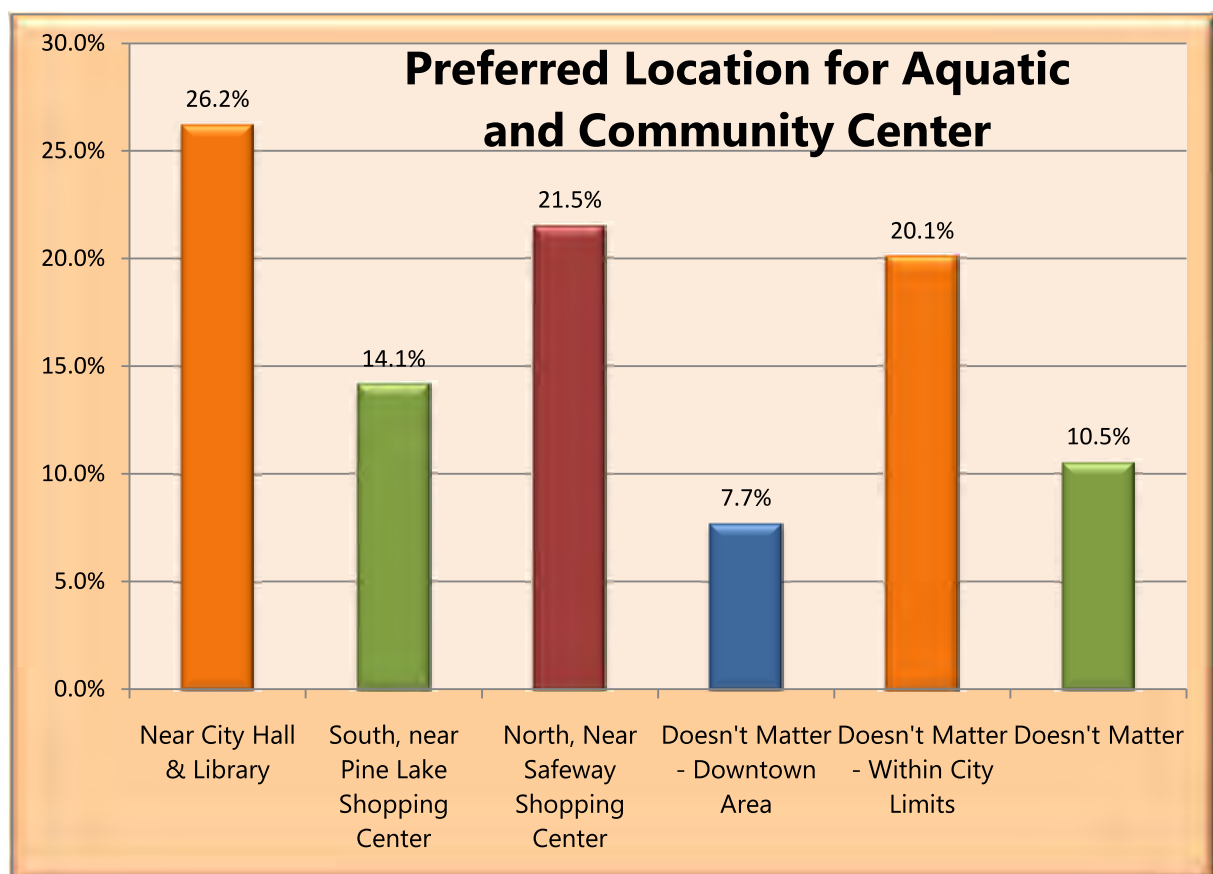
Location for Aquatic and Community Center

Preferred Location for Community and Aquatic Center

Respondents next gave input about their preferred location for an aquatic and community center. The respondents were offered the following options to choose from:

- Near City Hall and the Library, 228th Ave SE & SE 8th St.
- South, near the Pine Lake Shopping Center (QFC), 228th Ave SE & Issaquah-Pine Lake Road
- North, near the Safeway Shopping Center, 228th Ave SE & NE 8th St.
- Doesn't matter as long as it's inside the proposed town center/future downtown area
- Doesn't matter as long as it's inside the Sammamish City Limits
- Doesn't matter

The option most selected was "Near City Hall and the Library," with 26.2% of total respondents. However, the other two specific options both drew substantial numbers of responses. In addition, a total of 38.3% selected one of the "doesn't matter" options. Thus, there is no overwhelming favorite among the location options.



Multivariate Analysis

Preferences stated in this question were compared with the respondent's likelihood to use the proposed facilities. Results showed statistical significance, with respect to both likelihood to use the aquatic center ($p < 0.001$, *Cramer's V* = 0.263) and the community center ($p = 0.007$, *Cramer's V* = 0.178).

The most likely aquatic center users were more likely to prefer the "Near City Hall," "South," and "Within Sammamish City Limits" options than were less likely users. Unsurprisingly, less likely users expressed no preference with the "Doesn't Matter" option.

Likelihood to Use Aquatic Center	Percent Giving Response					
	Near City Hall	South, Near Pine Lake	North, Near Safeway	Doesn't Matter – Town Center	Doesn't Matter – within City Limits	Doesn't Matter
High (8-10)	28.3	17.2	20.2	7.1	23.7	7.1
Moderate (4-7)	24.7	12.3	23.3	13.7	16.4	9.6
Low (0-3)	23.6	9.8	22.8	9.8	17.1	17.1

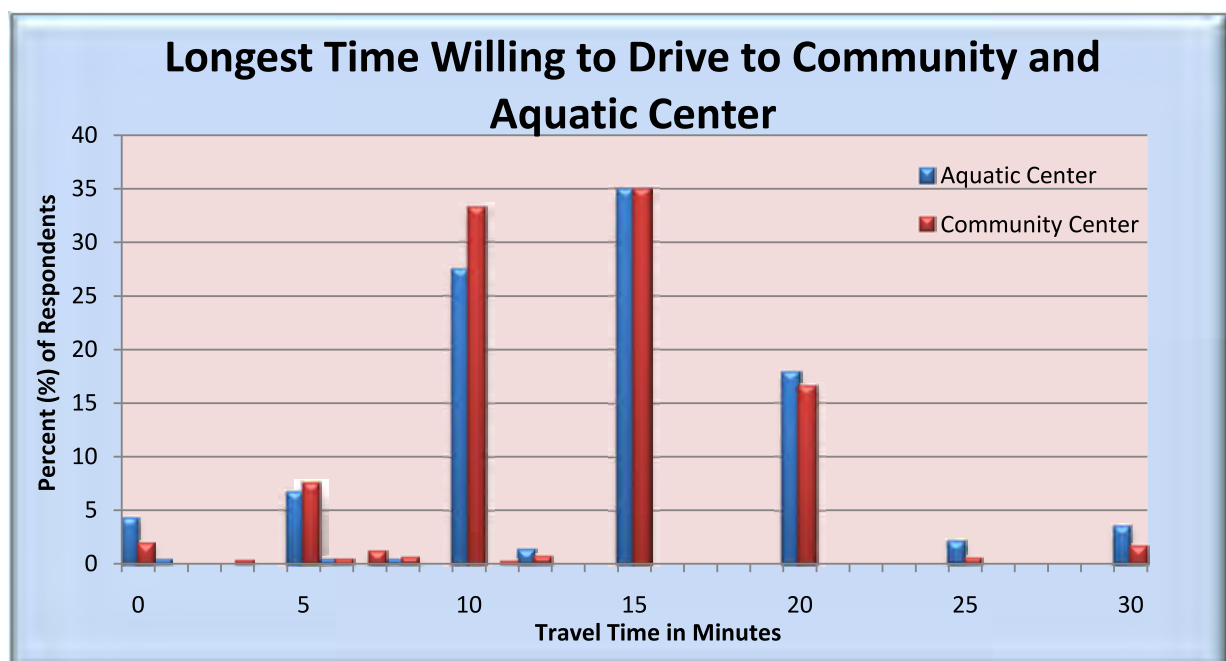
Likely users of the community center most commonly gave the response of "Within Sammamish City Limits, but did not choose specific sites at a greater rate than less likely users. Again, compared to the general population, a larger portion of unlikely users responded "doesn't matter."

Likelihood to Use Community Center	Percent Giving Response					
	Near City Hall	South, Near Pine Lake	North, Near Safeway	Doesn't Matter – Downtown	Doesn't Matter – within City Limits	Doesn't Matter
High (8-10)	25.4	11.1	19.8	9.5	26.2	7.9
Moderate (4-7)	26.2	20.1	22.1	9.4	16.1	6.0
Low (0-3)	26.4	10.0	20.9	3.6	20.0	19.1

Time Willing to Travel to Community and Aquatic Center

Respondents reported the maximum amount of time they would be willing to travel to an aquatic center, as well as a community center. To preserve readability on the graph below, responses greater than 30 minutes are shown in the table below.

For the community center, the mean response was about 13.3 minutes. The mean response for the aquatic center was slightly higher, at 14.5 minutes. The data indicates that most respondents would be willing to drive within Sammamish, and to neighboring cities, but generally would not want to drive to other parts of the region to attend these facilities.



Responses Longer than 30 Minutes	Aquatic	Community Center
45 Minutes	0.3%	0.3%
60 Minutes	0.2%	--
99 Minutes	--	0.3%
120 Minutes	--	0.3%

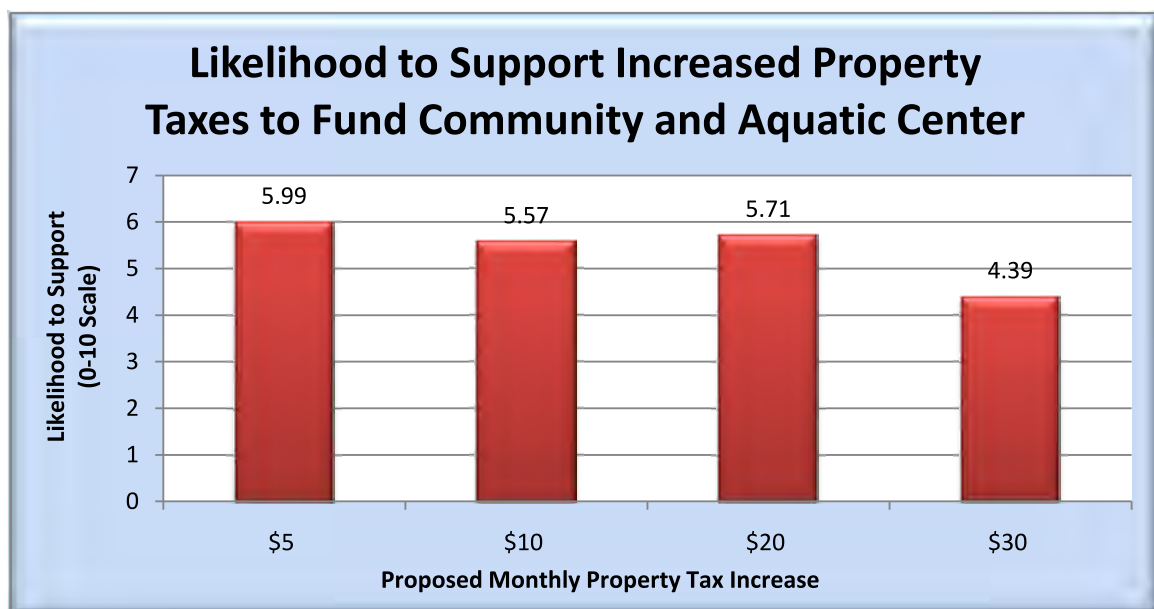
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Time to Travel to Aquatic Center	14.39	9.59	5.70	55.88
Time to Travel to Community Center	13.40	5.95	1.75	11.08

Likelihood to Support Increased Property Taxes for Community and Aquatic Center

Respondents were randomly divided into four groups. Each group was asked if they would accept a particular specified increase in average monthly payroll property taxes in order to fund a community center and aquatic center. The four monthly tax increases were: \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$30.

Multivariate testing confirms that the difference is significant ($p = 0.018$, *Eta Squared* 0.026).

Price Elasticity Graph



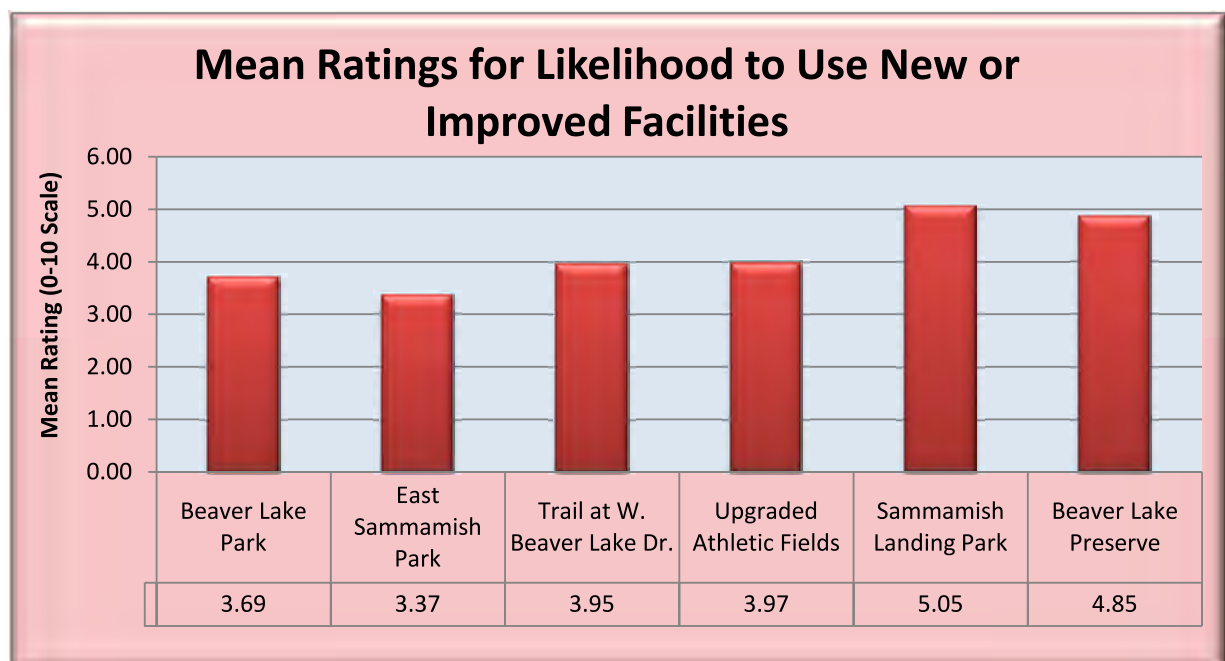
Propose Tax Increase	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
\$5 per month	5.99	3.99	-0.45	-1.44
\$10 per month	5.57	3.88	-0.32	-1.42
\$20 per month	5.71	3.89	-0.34	-1.43
\$30 per month	4.39	3.41	0.19	-1.22

Likelihood to Use New or Expanded Parks and Recreation Facilities

The next question tested whether residents would be likely to use various proposed parks and recreation capital projects. The residents were given a list of potential projects, and asked to rate their likelihood to use the project on a 0-10 scale. The facilities tested included:

- New Playground, and Shoreline and Parking Improvements at Beaver Lake Park
- New Spray Park/Splash Area and Picnic Shelter at East Sammamish Park
- Soft-Surface Trail along West Beaver Lake Drive
- Upgraded athletic fields at Eastlake High School, or Pine Lake Middle School, or Another Site
- A new Sammamish Landing Park on the Lake Sammamish Waterfront
- Beaver Lake Preserve, with Expanded Trails and Provide Waterfront Access

As the large standard deviations indicate, responses varied with a substantial number of higher and lower scores. Most likely, residents who lived near each facility gave relatively high likelihood to use, but residents in other parts of the City did not express a high likelihood, bringing the overall average down. The two highest rated projects were Sammamish Landing Park and Beaver Lake Preserve. The proposed spray park/splash area and picnic shelter at East Sammamish Park received the lowest rating.



Facility/Project	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Beaver Lake Park	3.69	4.41	0.44	-1.18
East Sammamish Park	3.37	3.32	0.60	-0.91
Trail on W. Beaver Lake Dr.	3.95	3.24	0.22	-1.21
Upgraded Athletic Fields	3.97	3.53	0.29	-1.32
Sammamish Landing Park	5.05	3.60	-0.15	-1.39
Beaver Lake Preserve	4.85	3.40	-0.07	-1.29

Multivariate Analysis

Males were significantly more likely than women to utilize upgraded athletic fields and a new Sammamish Landing Park.

Gender	Upgraded Athletic Fields	Sammamish Landing Park
Male	4.34	5.43
Female	3.61	4.67
<i>p-value</i>	<i>0.040</i>	<i>0.033</i>
<i>Eta²</i>	<i>0.011</i>	<i>0.011</i>

The table below shows the projects in which mean ratings differed between age groups. In general, older residents (especially those over 65) were less likely to support these projects than younger residents. 35-44 year olds gave the highest ratings for Beaver Lake Park, East Lake Sammamish Park, and the upgraded athletic fields. 18-24 year olds gave the highest ratings for a soft surface trail on West Beaver Lake Drive, and for an enhanced Beaver Lake Preserve.

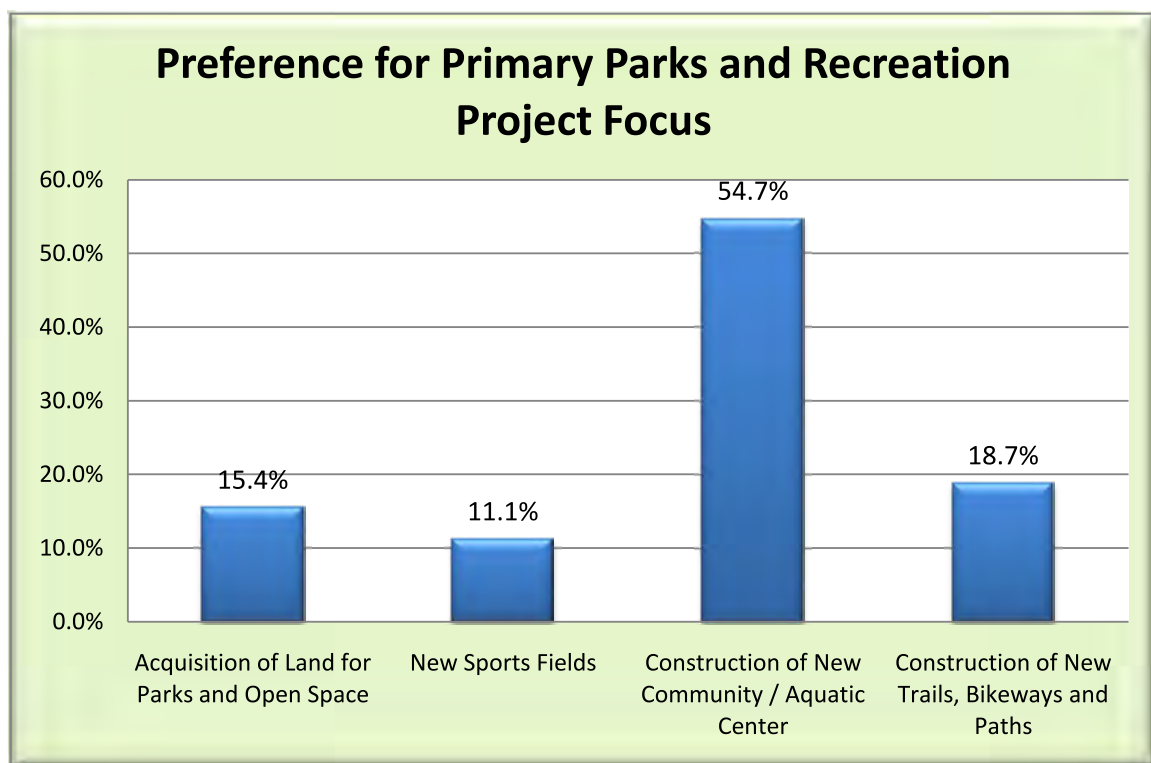
Age Group	Beaver Lake Park	East Lake Sammamish Park	Trail on W. Beaver Lake Dr.	Upgraded Athletic Fields	Beaver Lake Preserve
18-24	3.70	2.80	5.20	3.98	5.86
25-34	3.88	3.10	3.98	3.65	4.85
35-44	4.48	4.92	4.04	5.09	4.68
45-54	3.93	2.87	4.36	4.33	5.17
55-64	3.02	2.56	3.52	2.11	5.16
65+	0.72	1.77	1.77	2.48	2.84
<i>p-value</i>	<i>< 0.001</i>	<i>< 0.001</i>	<i>< 0.001</i>	<i>< 0.001</i>	<i>0.010</i>
<i>Eta²</i>	<i>0.081</i>	<i>0.100</i>	<i>0.051</i>	<i>0.089</i>	<i>0.037</i>

Preference for Primary Parks and Recreation Project Focus

To gauge residents' opinions on the City's overall priority for parks and recreation projects, residents were given a list of project areas. They were asked to select the one area that should be the primary focus for the next 2 to 6 years, knowing that the other options would not be funded.

By a very large margin, residents rated the construction of a new community center/aquatic center as the top priority among parks and recreation projects (54.7%). The other three options gathered substantially less support, with 18.7% preferring construction of trails, 15.4% preferring acquisition of land for parks and open space, and 11.1% preferring new sports fields.

The results of this question give strong evidence that the community and aquatic center should be the highest priority among major new parks and recreation projects.



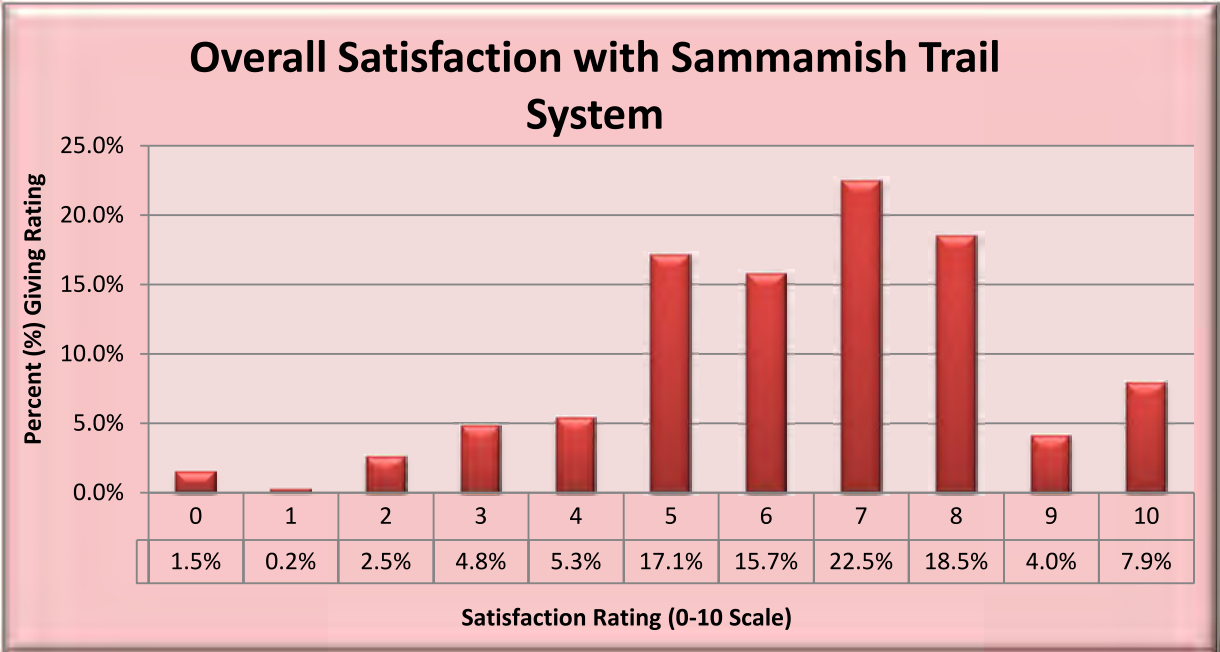
Multivariate Analysis

Age groups showed significant differences in responses ($p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.192$)

Age Group	Acquisition of Land for Parks and Open Space	New Sports Fields	Construction of Aquatic/Comm unity Center	Construction of New Trails, Bikeways and Paths
18-24	0.0	12.5	70.8	16.7
25-34	15.2	6.5	63.0	15.2
35-44	13.0	9.6	61.7	15.7
45-54	8.3	11.9	56.9	22.9
55-64	32.2	10.2	33.9	23.7
65+	33.3	22.2	29.6	14.8

Overall Satisfaction with Existing Trail System

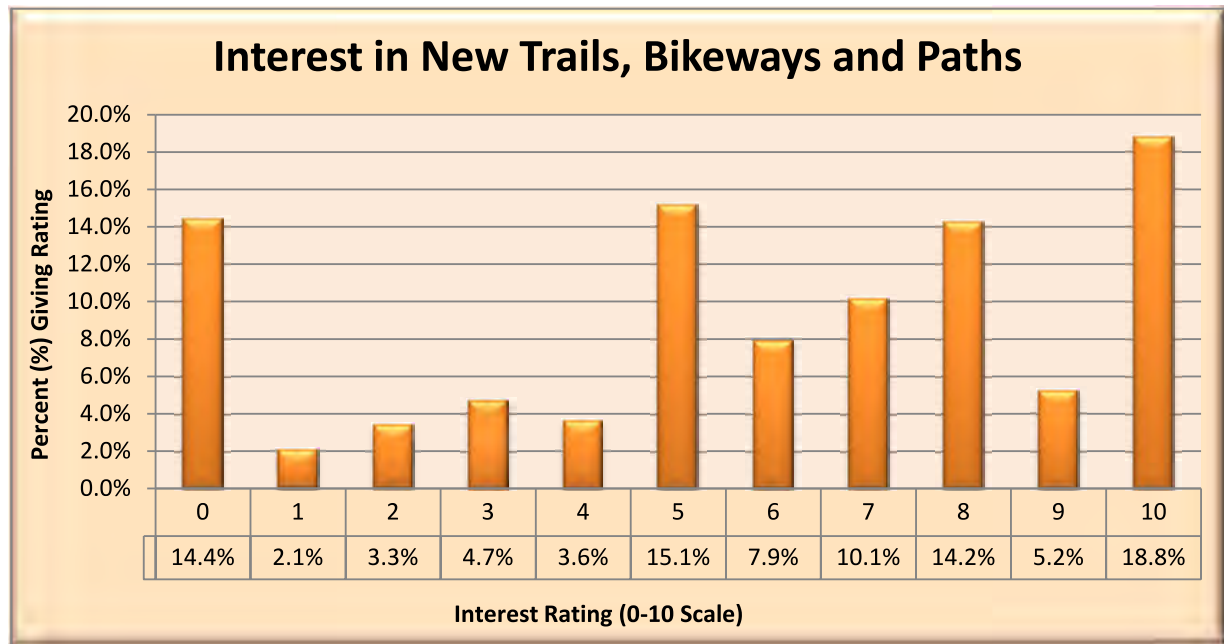
Using a 0-10 scale, respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the trail systems available in Sammamish. The mean rating was 6.41, significantly ($p < 0.001$) lower than the 7.81 overall rating given for the city’s overall parks and recreation system. The distribution was concentrated toward the moderately high ratings, with 73.8% giving a score of 5 through 8. Comparatively few respondents gave very high or very low ratings. The responses suggest that, while the community is not dissatisfied with the trail system, improvements could be made to bring the trail system up to the standards of other parks and recreation programs.



Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
6.41	2.06	-0.51	0.47

Interest in New Trails, Bikeways and Paths

Residents also rated their interest in new trails, bikeways, and paths in the city, again using a 0-10 scale. The mean rating was a moderate 5.86. However, there were a substantial number of interested respondents: the largest single group gave a rating of 10, and a total of 38.2% of respondents expressed a high level of interest (ratings 8-10).



Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
5.86	3.35	-0.47	-0.93

Multivariate Analysis

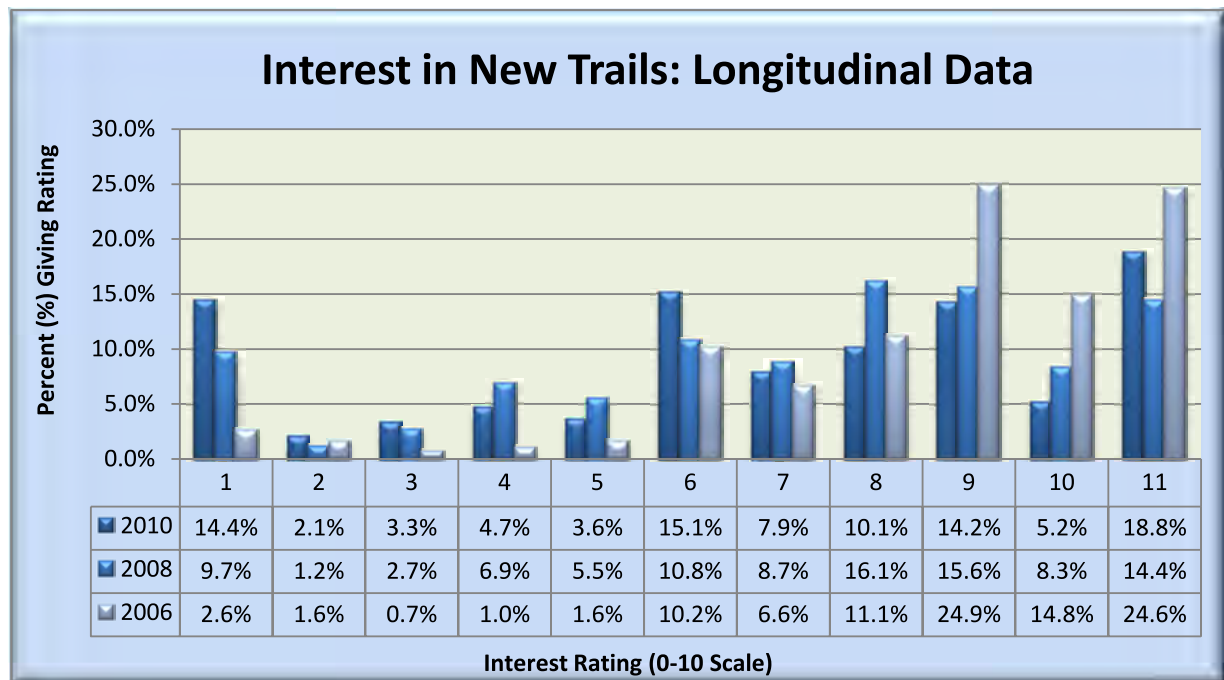
Multivariate testing found significant differences between age groups ($p < 0.001$, $Eta^2 = 0.054$). Residents between 45 and 54 were most interested in new trails, while those over age 65 were the least interested.

Age Group	Mean Rating
18-24	5.90
25-34	5.10
35-44	6.15
45-54	6.63
55-64	5.47
65+	3.38

Longitudinal Analysis: Interest in New Trails

Data on interest in trails was also collected in the 2008 and 2006 parks surveys. Note: the 2008 survey asked about trails "in the vicinity of Beaver Lake, and in N.E. Sammamish," while the 2010 and 2006 survey did not specify a particular location.

The average level of interest in new trails has declined from 2006 through 2008 and 2010. Notably, the percentage of respondents given a rating of 0 has increased sharply, from 2.6% in 2006, to 9.7% in 2008 and 14.4% in 2010.

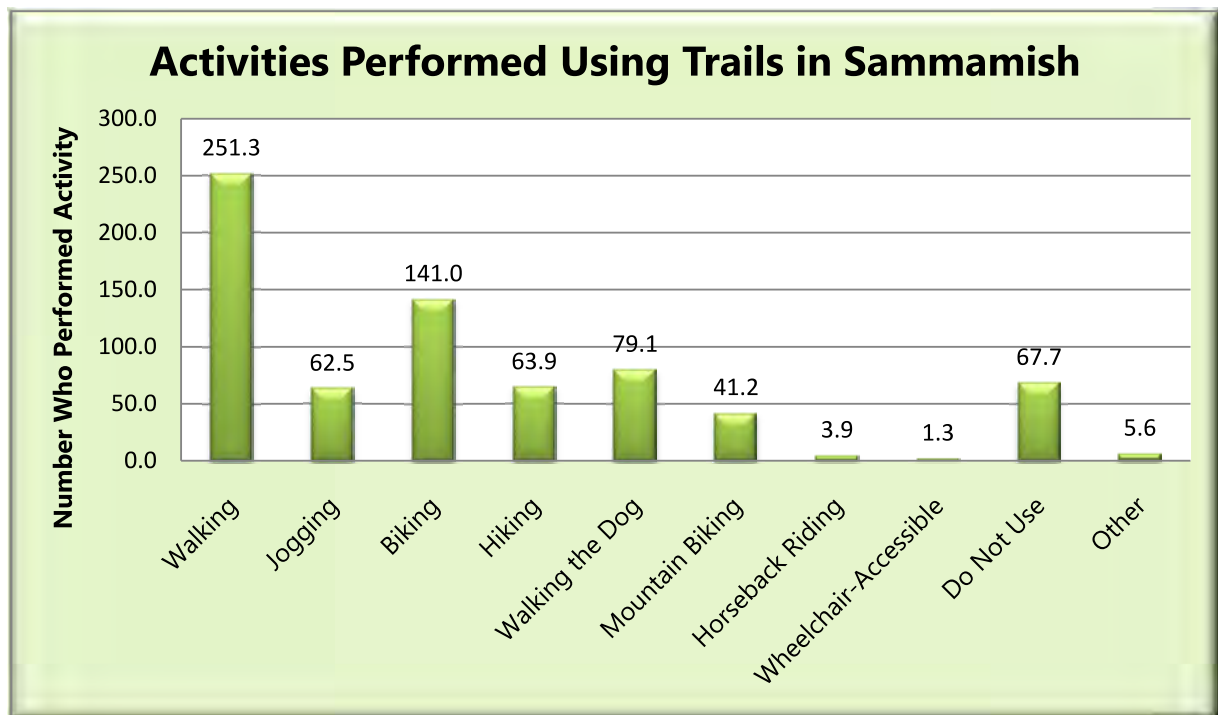


Survey Year	Mean Rating
2010	5.86
2008	6.12
2006	7.61

Current Activities Using Sammamish Trails

From a list of activities, respondents selected all the ways they generally utilize the trails in Sammamish. Walking was the most common activity, with 251.3 weighted respondents. Biking was the second most popular use of the trails (141.0), and walking the dog was the third most common. Very few respondents reported that they used the trails for horseback riding and wheelchair accessible activities. Two respondents also mentioned rollerblading under the “other” category.

The high portion of responses for pedestrian activities (walking, jogging, hiking and walking the dog) suggests that, to satisfy the needs of the largest groups of users, trail construction and policies should make pedestrian friendliness a priority.

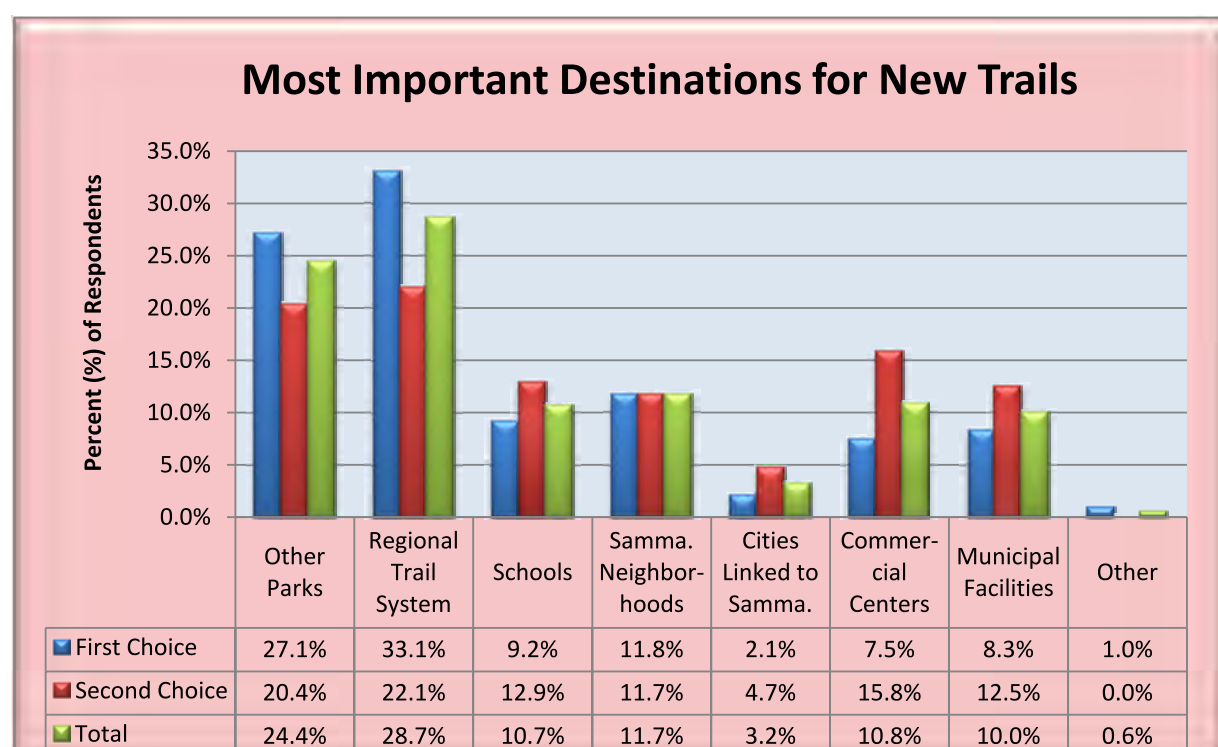


Most Important Destinations for Trails

The next question inquired about what types of destinations residents would like the city's trail system to connect to. Respondents were instructed to select their top two choices from a list of destinations, which included:

- Other parks
- Regional Trail Systems
- Schools
- Sammamish neighborhoods
- Cities linked to Sammamish
- Commercial Centers: workplaces and retail services
- Municipal Facilities (City Hall, Library, etc.)

Regional trail systems (28.7% of combined total responses) and other parks (24.4%) were the top two choices, indicating that residents place strong value on an interconnected recreation system. Sammamish neighborhoods (11.7%), commercial centers (10.8%) schools (10.7%) and municipal facilities (10.0%) generated moderate interest. The least popular option was neighboring cities (3.2%).

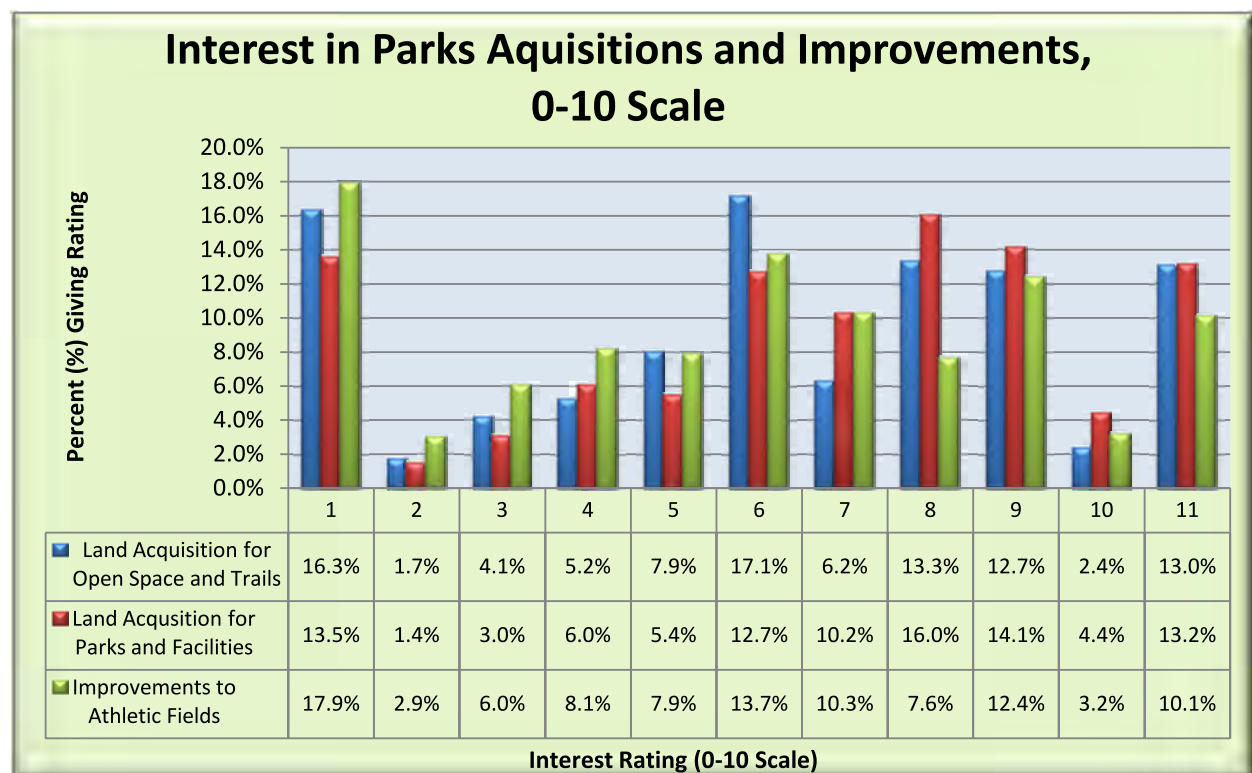


Interest in Parks Development

Respondents were asked to rate their interest in three general categories of development programs, using the 0-10 scale for each. The three areas tested were:

- Land acquisition for open space and trails
- Land acquisition for future parks and facilities (new community parks, new recreation facilities, and expansion of existing parks)
- Improvements for athletic fields (installing synthetic turf and lights to extend playability at existing fields)

Land acquisition for future parks and facilities was rated highest (mean rating of 5.68), followed by land acquisition for trails and open spaces (5.27), and improvements for athletic fields (4.82). Multivariate analysis confirms that the difference between ratings is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).



Subject	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Land Acquisition for Open Space and Trails	5.27	3.21	-0.27	-0.97
Land Acquisition for Future Parks and Facilities	5.68	3.12	-0.49	-0.74
Improvements for Athletic Fields	4.82	3.23	-0.07	-1.11

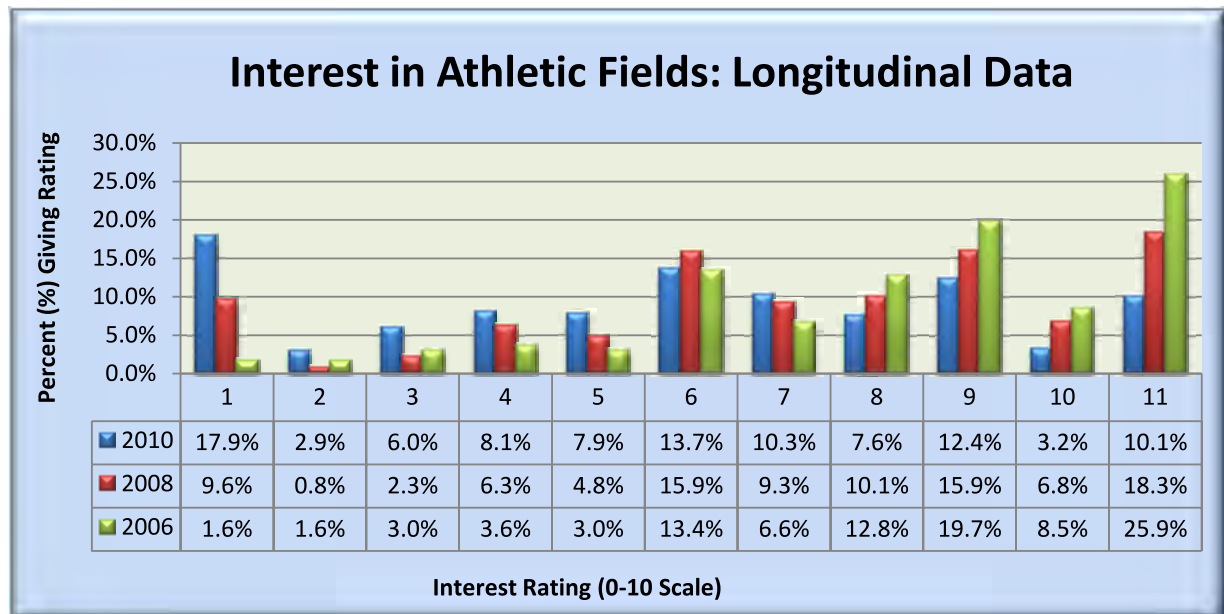
Multivariate Analysis

Significant differences between age groups were found for each of the three project areas discussed above. As the table shows,

Age Group	Land Acquisition for Open Space and Trails	Land Acquisition for Future Parks and Facilities	Improvements for Athletic Fields
18-24	4.50	4.98	4.43
25-34	5.50	6.02	5.25
35-44	5.51	5.61	5.46
45-54	5.65	6.30	4.99
55-64	5.60	5.54	3.68
65+	3.71	3.99	3.62
<i>p-value</i>	<i>0.045</i>	<i>0.007</i>	<i>0.003</i>
<i>Eta²</i>	<i>0.029</i>	<i>0.040</i>	<i>0.045</i>

Longitudinal Analysis

Interest in athletic field improvements was also studied in the 2008 and 2006 parks surveys. Continuing the trend seen in other program areas, interest has undergone a steady and substantial decline from 2006 to 2010. Again, the portion of respondents rating a 0 has increased from 1.6% in 2006, to 9.6% in 2008, to 17.9% in 2010.



Survey Year	Mean
2010	4.82
2008	6.20
2006	7.21

Most Important Amenities for Future Parks Projects

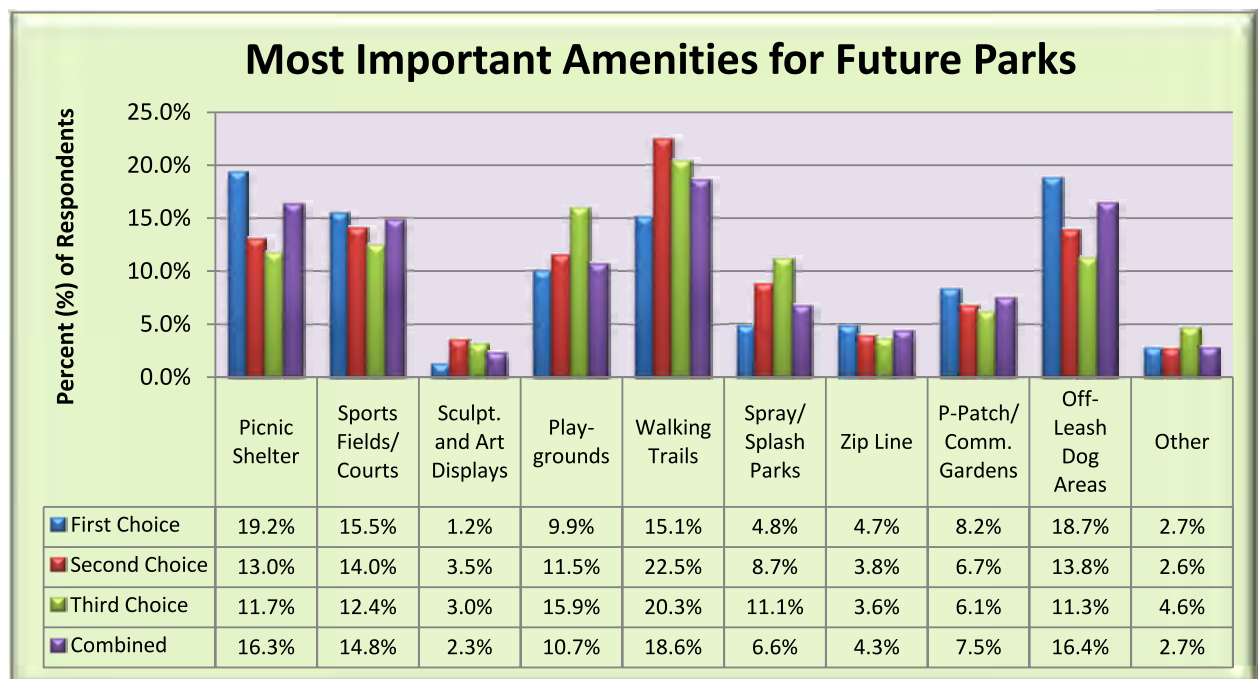
Respondents next reported the most important amenities they would like to see in future parks. From the following list of options, respondents gave their top three selections:

- Picnic Shelters
- Sports Fields, Sport Courts and/or a Disc Golf Course
- Sculptures and Art Displays
- Playgrounds
- Walking Trails
- Spray/Splash Parks
- Zip Line
- P-Patch/Community Gardens
- Off-Leash Dog Areas

Walking trails were the amenity most mentioned (18.6% of total combined responses) while off-leash dog area was the second most mentioned (16.4%). Other frequently chosen amenities included picnic shelters (16.3%) and sports fields (14.8%). Sculptures and art displays were the least popular of the choices offered (2.3%).

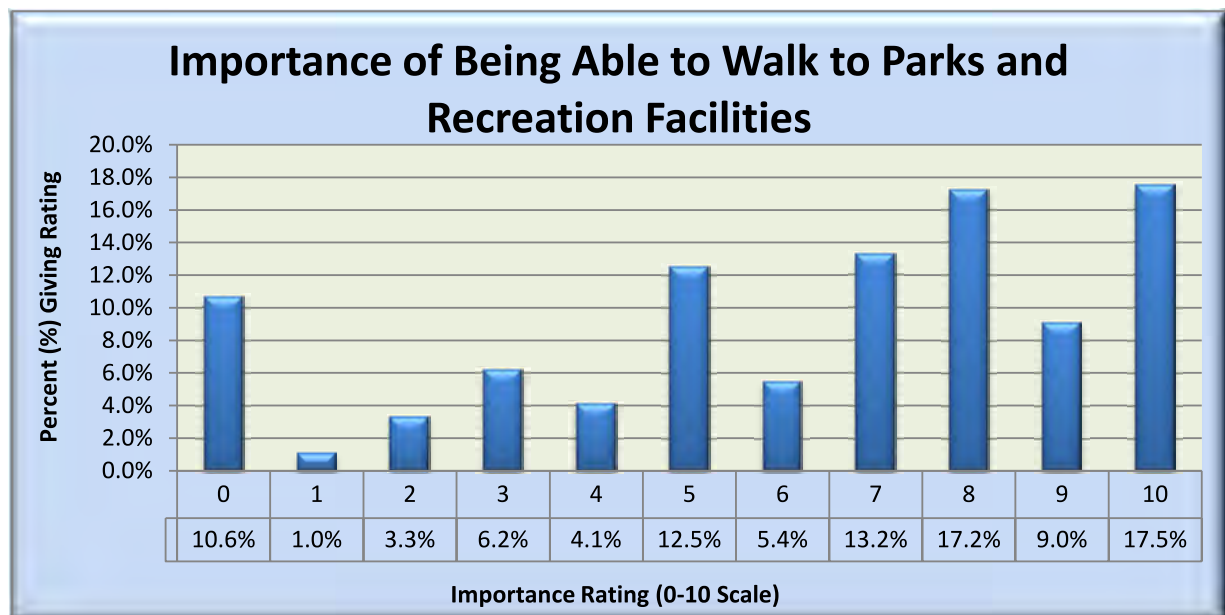
Additional amenities included under the “other” category included:

- Restrooms (9)
- Waterfront access (e.g. boat docks or fishing) (3)
- Rock wall (2)



Importance of Ability to Walk to Parks and Recreation Facilities

When residents rated the importance of being able to walk to parks and recreation facilities, the mean score was a moderate 6.24. Almost half (43.7%) of respondents gave a high rating of eight through ten.



Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
6.24	3.14	-0.66	-0.62

Importance of Ability to Walk to Parks and Recreation Facilities

Responses to this question varied significantly by age groups ($P = 0.002$, $Eta^2 = 0.072$). Again, the lowest ratings were given by residents aged 65 and over. Members of the 45-54 group gave the rated walkability the highest importance.

Age Group	Importance Rating
18-24	5.82
25-34	5.62
35-44	6.64
45-54	7.00
55-64	5.76
65+	3.93

Maximum Distance Willing to Walk to Parks and Recreation Facilities

Residents next reported the maximum distance they would be willing to walk to parks and recreation facilities. The results indicate that the level of willingness is generally high. Over 60% of respondents were willing to walk at least a mile to reach these facilities, while only 9% were not willing to walk any distance.



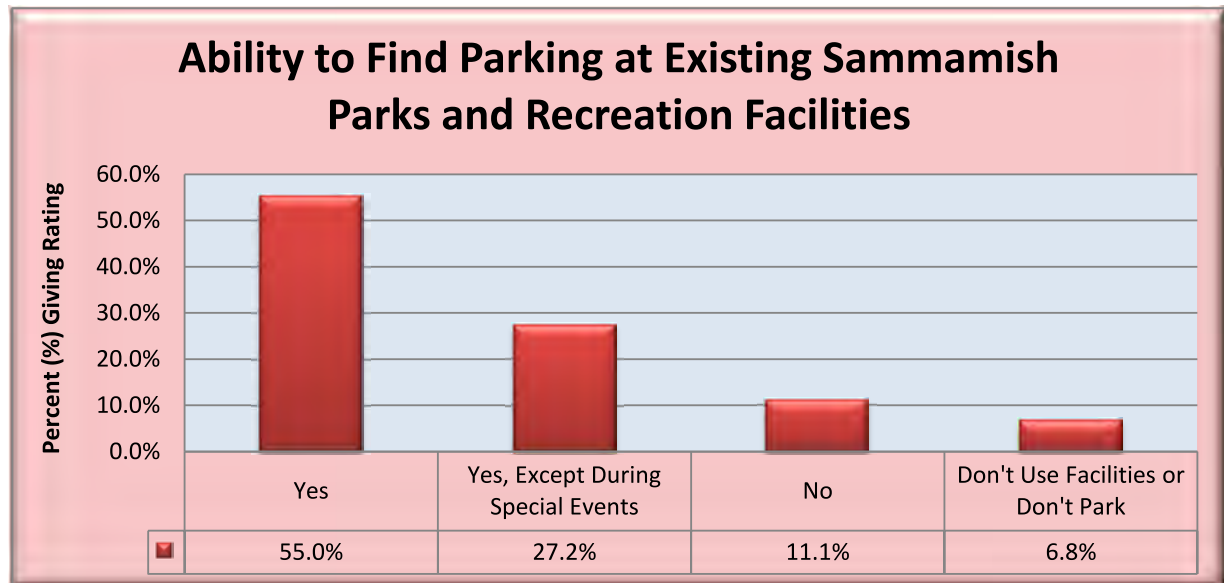
Multivariate Analysis

Respondents of different age groups reported significantly different distances willing to walk ($p = 0.001$, $Cramer's V = 0.167$). Those aged 35-54 were much less willing to walk 2 miles than both the age 18-34 and 54+ groups.

Age Group	1/4 Mile	1/2 Mile	1 Mile	2 Miles	None
18-24	3.8	38.5	19.2	19.2	19.2
25-34	12.2	18.4	34.7	10.2	10.2
35-44	6.0	23.9	48.7	18.6	2.6
45-54	9.4	16.2	41.0	28.2	5.1
55-64	10.2	15.3	30.5	18.6	18.6
65+	19.4	12.9	32.3	19.4	19.4

Ability to Find Parking at Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

The majority of residents (55.0%) reported that they can generally find parking at Sammamish parks and recreation facilities. An additional 27.2% can find parking except during special events. Only 11.1% reported that they generally cannot find parking. Only 6.8% reported that they don't use these facilities or don't park.



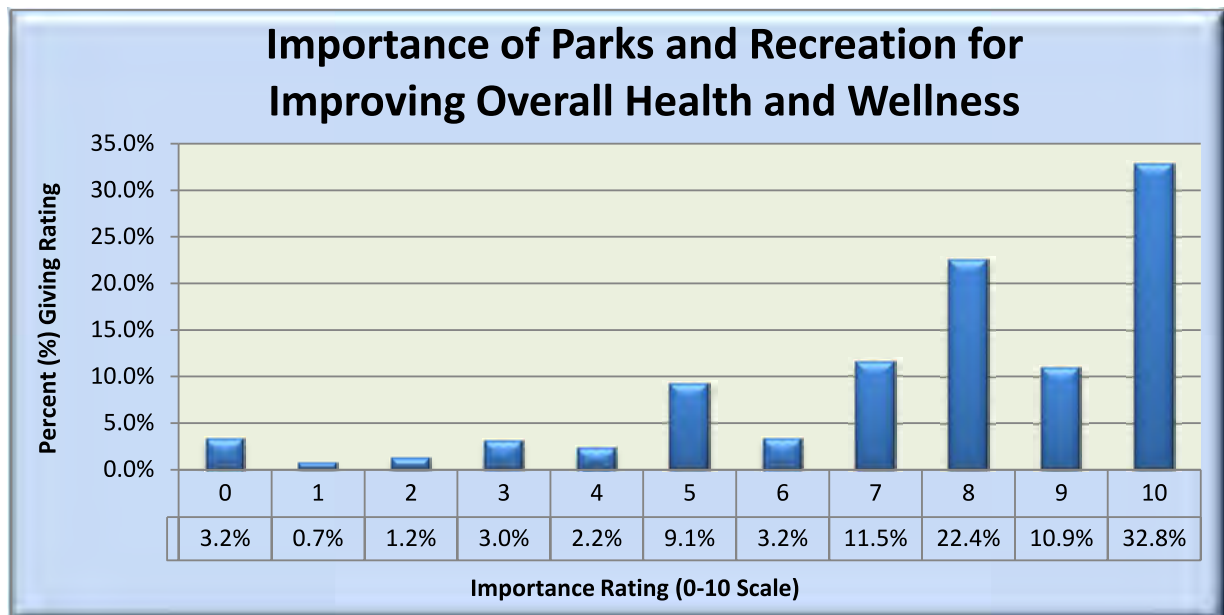
Multivariate Analysis

Multivariate analysis showed that responses to this question varied between age groups ($p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.198$). The 55-64 group responded "yes" most frequently, while the 18-24 and 65+ groups were least likely to respond "yes." The latter two groups were also the most likely to respond that they could not generally find parking, and the most likely to respond that they don't attempt to park at these facilities.

Age Group	Yes	Yes, except during special events	No	Don't use facilities or don't park
18-24	42.3	23.1	23.1	11.5
25-34	49.0	32.7	12.2	6.1
35-44	55.6	32.5	9.4	2.6
45-54	59.0	30.8	7.7	2.6
55-64	61.7	18.3	10.0	10.0
65+	43.8	9.4	18.8	28.1

Importance of Parks and Recreation Facilities for Overall Health and Wellness

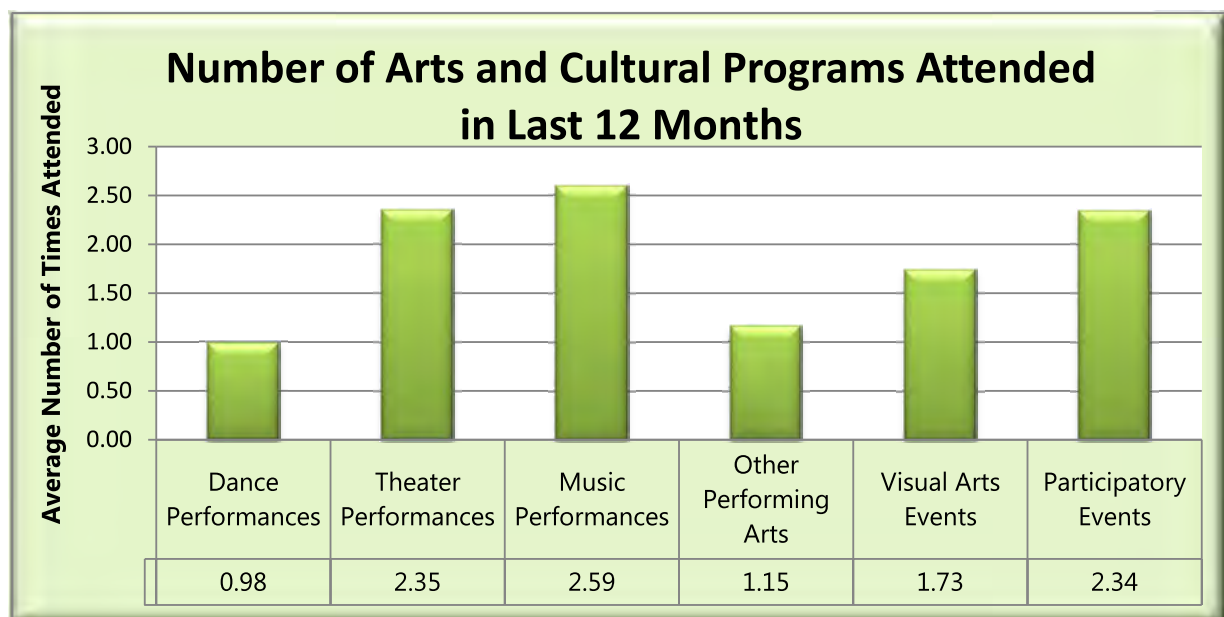
Residents gave a high average rating (7.71) for the importance of parks and recreation facilities for overall health and wellness. Over 30% gave the highest score of 10, meaning that for a substantial portion of the city residents, parks and recreation are considered extremely important for health and wellness.



Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
7.71	5.51	-1.32	1.38

Cultural and Arts Programs Attended in Last 12 Months

Respondents were asked to list how many times they had attended certain categories of arts and cultural events within the preceding 12 months. The most frequently attended events were music performances, with an average of 2.59 times attended. Theater performances (2.35) and participatory events (2.35) were the next most common. Dance performances were the least attended, averaging less than one performance per respondent per year (0.98).



Type of Event	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Dance Performances	0.98	2.33	3.94	19.67
Theater Performances	2.35	4.25	5.64	50.85
Music Performances	2.59	3.07	1.83	4.31
Other Performing Arts	1.15	2.23	2.98	10.29
Visual Arts Events	1.73	2.50	2.36	7.00
Participatory Events	2.34	7.29	7.32	77.10

Multivariate Analysis

Multivariate testing showed that men attended visual participatory arts events significantly less often than women. The difference was particularly distinct for participatory arts events, which women attended almost four times as often.

Gender	Visual Arts Events	Participatory Arts Events
Male	1.42	0.95
Female	2.04	3.73
<i>p-value</i>	0.013	< 0.001
<i>Eta²</i>	0.015	0.036

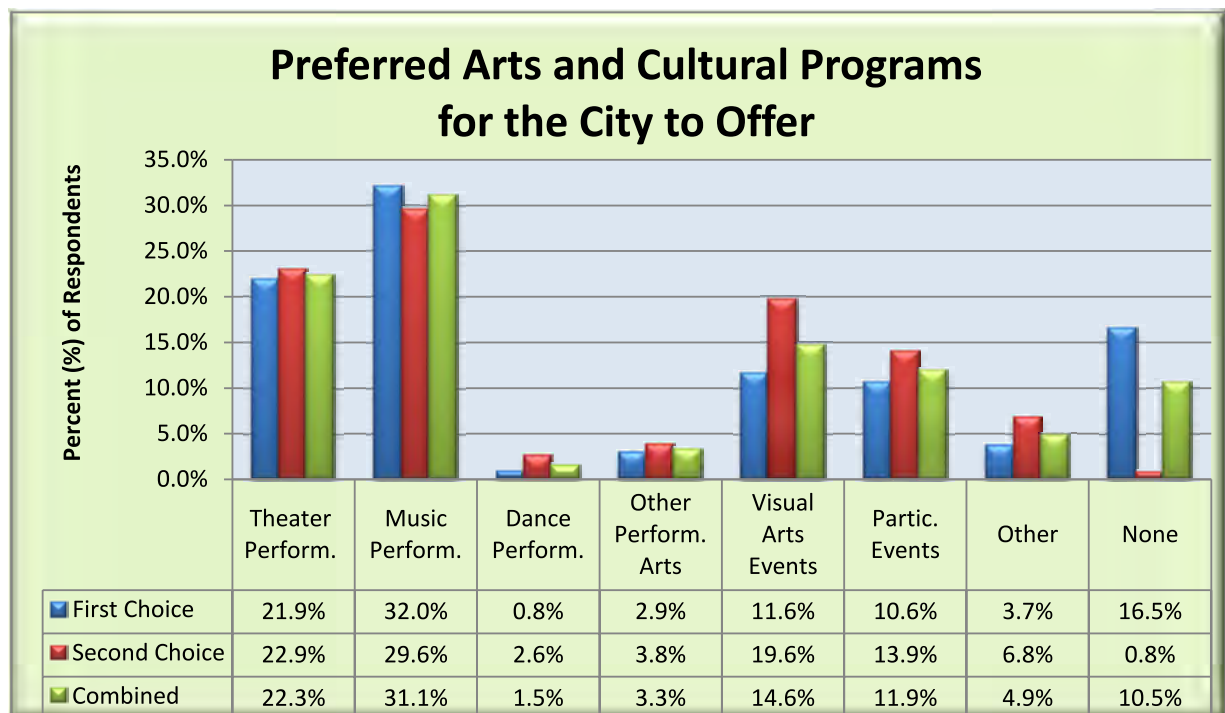
Preferred Cultural and Arts Programs for the City of Sammamish to Offer

Residents selected the two categories of programs they would most like the city to offer. Music performances received the most first choice votes, as well as the highest percent of total votes. Theater performances were second, and visual arts third. Dance and other performing arts received the lowest percents. These results mirror the previous question: respondents are most interested in having the City offer the same categories of programs that they have most frequently attended in the past.

A relatively large number of respondents believed that the City should not offer any arts and cultural programs.

“Other” responses included:

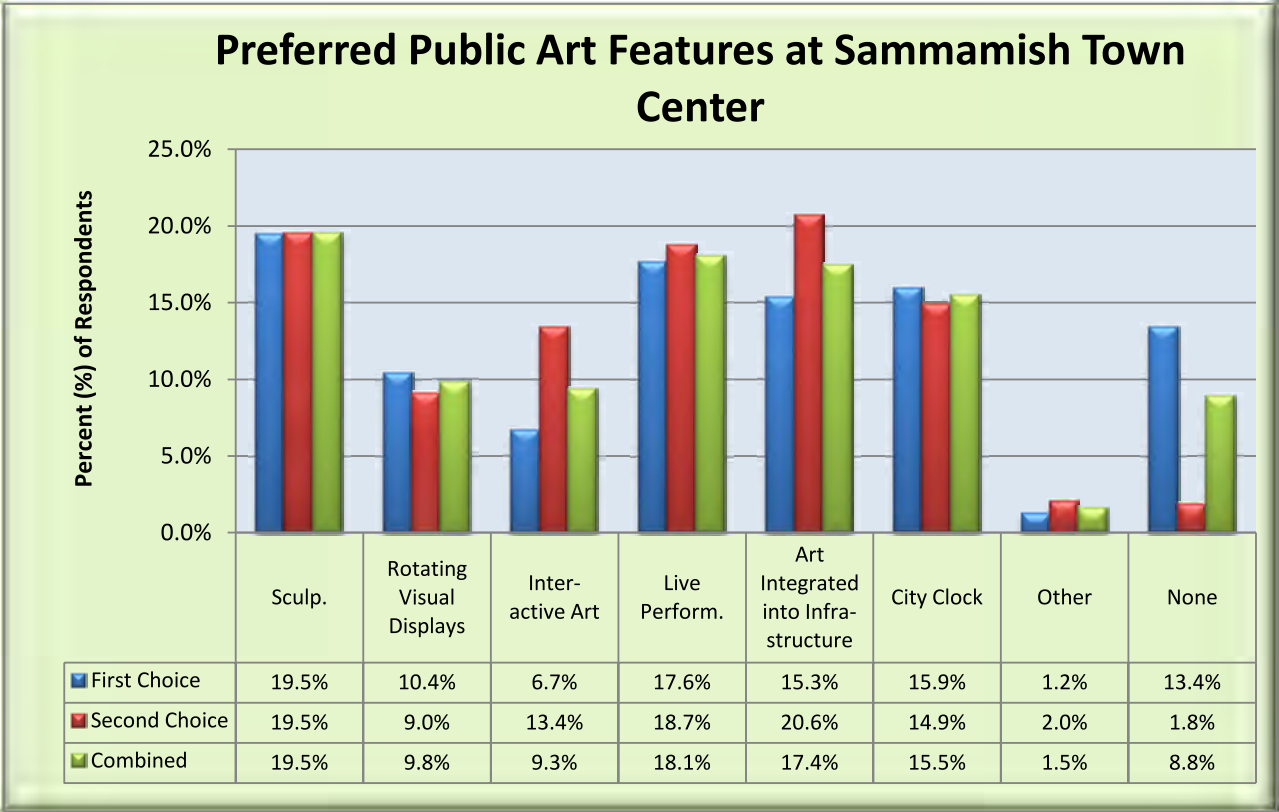
- Programs for children and teens (12)
- A food festival (2)
- Car shows (2)



Preferred Types of Public Art for Sammamish Town Center

The survey next investigated what types of public art residents would most like to see in the Sammamish Town Center. Given a selection of categories, respondents next rated their top two choices. In order of total percents, the most popular options for public art in the new town center were sculptures (19.5% of total combined responses), live performances (18.1%), art integrated into infrastructure design (17.4%), and a city clock (15.5%). Again, a substantial portion of respondents (8.8%) preferred no public art features at all.

Among responses categorized as "Other," three people also selected a fountain.



Other Comments or Suggestions

At the conclusion of the survey, residents were given the opportunity to share any other thoughts or comments. These responses were recorded verbatim. The following records the most common themes among responses, and includes illustrative quotes. See appendix 1 for a full list of responses.

Support for some or all of the projects mentioned in the survey

- Sammamish really does need some sort of activity center or pool. Right now you have to leave town to find a pool open the public. We shouldn't have to leave town.
- Activities involving the community in this time of unemployment like pea patches could bring the community together. I also think outdoor movies would be great.
- I think a rec center would be ideal. I don't know how such an affluent community doesn't have a community center.

Opposition to some or all of the projects mentioned in the survey

- The aquatic center is a crazy idea, especially since there is one in Issaquah, that's 20 minutes away and is underused. I don't understand why we should spend money for an aquatic center when there is one so close and not fully used.
- I feel they are stealing property. I don't want any part of this and will not support any funding!
- Sammamish already has so much in and around it that we don't need to spend a whole bunch of public dollars just to compete with neighboring cities. We should have something unique rather than repetitive or competitive.

Concerns over city spending and tax implications of parks programs

- The city, in these hard times, needs to focus on maintenance and existing infrastructure. Focus on necessary cutbacks to help the deficiencies we all ready have.
- I am against being taxed to have these services, buildings, art and so on in Sammamish. Our economy is struggling enough, and I do not believe we should be taxed for facilities we may not use, want or be able to afford.

Needs for specific improvements

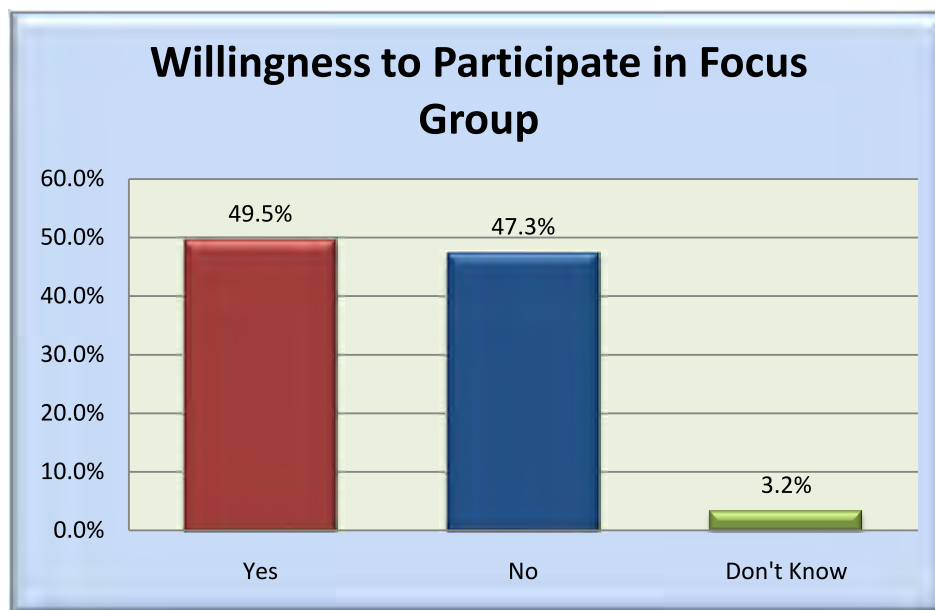
- I just think the parking is always an issue. It makes it difficult to go to these things.
- We need more public and diversified access to Lake Sammamish.
- We just need more things for younger kids. There are a lot of young kids up here.
- I would like to see the regional Lake Sammamish trail paved so other bikes besides mountain bikes can ride these trails. When they opened the trail, they said they would pave it but nothing ever happened.

Appreciation for the city conducting the survey

- I appreciate the fact that the City is asking for input and I hope they don't stop here. I want them to proceed with plans as it makes our area that much nicer.

Willingness to Participate in Focus Group

Finally, residents were asked if they would be willing to participate in a focus group to further explore the topics discussed in the survey. Nearly half (49.5%) of respondents expressed a willingness to participate in a focus group. This indicates a strong level of citizen interest in the direction of the city's parks and recreation programs, and suggests that focus group research would be highly feasible.



Conclusions

- Satisfaction with the parks and recreation facilities in Sammamish is high, both overall and with respect to appearance
- Residents use a wide variety of sources to learn about parks and recreation programs. City-produced sources are an important information source.
- Overall, residents reported a moderate likelihood to use both the aquatic center and community center.
- Most residents would prefer a combined indoor/outdoor pool, though a substantial minority would prefer indoor only. Very few respondents preferred a seasonal outdoor-only pool.
- The most desired community center amenities were a fitness center, sports courts or indoor walking track, and a multipurpose gymnasium.
- Of the various possible locations for the community and aquatic center, the most popular response was at the town center. However, this only received 26.2% of the total, with a large portion responding that it doesn't matter.
- Price elasticity analysis showed that residents are about equally willing to support monthly property tax increases of \$5, \$10, or \$20 per month to fund a community and aquatic center. Support at the \$30 level was somewhat lower.
- Interest in specific new parks projects was moderately low. The most favorably rated of the projects, a new Sammamish Landing Park and an expanded Beaver Lake preserve, both received moderate ratings.
- If respondents could select only one type of project to be funded, most (54.7%) selected the community and aquatic center.
- Interest in new trails was moderate.
- Satisfaction with existing trails was moderately high, but lower than overall satisfaction with the parks and recreation system in general.
- Interest in land acquisition for trails, parks facilities was moderate; interest in improvements for athletic fields was lower.
- The most desired amenities in future parks projects are walking trails, picnic shelters, and off-leash dog areas.
- Residents gave a moderate importance rating for being able to walk to parks and recreation facilities, and most were willing to walk to these facilities
- Most residents could usually find parking; only a few reported that this was generally an issue

- Parks and recreation facilities are considered highly important for overall health and wellness
- Among arts and cultural programs, residents currently attend music and theater events most often. Residents would also most like the City to offer programs in these two areas.
- For public art in the Sammamish town center, residents would most like to see sculptures, art integrated into infrastructure design, and a city clock or town hall clock.
- Almost half of the residents contacted would be interested in participating in a focus group to discuss parks and recreation issues.
- Public interest or support for new parks and recreation projects has declined from previous years. This decline is likely at least partially due to concerns about the economy and city budget, but further research would be needed to identify additional causes.

Appendix 1: Verbatim Responses

Verbatim responses were recorded for the open-ended question 34, and for other questions when a resident gave a response that did not fit into an existing category.

Research assistants transcribed the verbatim responses while conducting each survey. The original transcriptions have been edited only for spelling, punctuation and major grammar. If multiple people gave the same response, the total number is identified in parentheses.

Question 4: Which specific sources of information do you use to find out about parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs, and cultural arts opportunities in Sammamish?

- Banner advertisement on the road.
- Banner on the street.
- Banners on 228th street, we've been here for 8 years and I know a lot of the things I want to go and see.
- Banners on 228th, signs on the road for farmers markets.
- Banners over the streets with ads on them.
- Banners that run across 228th Ave SE.
- City newspaper and banners.
- Community.
- Driving by.
- Flyers in the park.
- Flyers included in the newspapers i.e. inside the Sammamish Review.
- Flyers or banners.
- Google online and King County website.
- I just go to the park next door to me.
- Information from the sign on the banner on 228th, and Chamber of Commerce emails are helpful to us.
- Internet. (4)
- Internet - Google.
- Internet in general.
- Internet, Spanish mailers, Redmond mailers.
- Internet, Yahoo, Google.
- Just driving by.
- Just driving by it.
- King County Website.
- KOMO 4 (website).
- Local organizations, LWYSI, and GSSL.org.
- Mountain bike website.
- My experiences from living here for many years.
- myparksandrecreation.com.
- On the Internet or the TV news.
- Online, a general online search.

- Personal knowledge.
- Posted signs on 228th street showing different events that are coming up like a fireworks display and other things going on.
- Posters on the road.
- Sammamish flyer.
- Sammamish review newspaper. Signs that I see when I drive up and down the plateau.
- Search engine using Google. I would type in the word Sammamish, and then whatever activity I'm looking for.
- Search engine -- Google the words "Sammamish parks."
- Signs.
- Signs around town and the library.
- Signs at Farmers Market.
- Signs posted.
- Sometimes we stop in at the City Hall.
- Street banners.
- The banners that go over the 228th Ave that say, "Thanks for the Farmers' Market," and other varied events are information sources for me.
- The flyers that come around to us from the Sammamish Review.
- The King County website.
- The Sammamish flyer.
- The Sammamish newsletter or brochures that come in the mail or pick one up somewhere at the city hall, library, or in a public school where the pamphlet section is located.
- Visit the park.
- We have lived in Sammamish for ten years and we just know the parks.

Question 6: If a new aquatic center were built, what would be the TWO important elements/features you and/or members of your family would be most likely to use?

- A beach. I don't want a boat launch there. A park where we can barbecue with firepits. Lifeguards nearby, and plenty of parking available.
- Adult Lap Swimming and teen opportunities.
- Adult swim and location.
- An outdoor pool with winter time coverage.
- Any and all kinds of diving boards.
- Aquatic exercise swim. Children's swim class.
- Cost and availability. An open pool that is indoor and outdoor.
- Diving board.
- Family swim.
- Family swim pool.
- Family swim time.
- Family swims.
- General swimming.
- I don't want to see an aquatic facility.

- I'd prefer a 50 meter pool since only 2 pools of this size exist in the whole Seattle/Tacoma area and only 1 of those prior 2 pools are located indoors. They should look into this as something they could make some money off of.
- I'd prefer a regular 12 foot depth pool for everyone instead of a competitive pool. I think the water slides are a bad idea because of the liability issue with them.
- I'm not a competitive swimmer so I would use it for exercise.
- Just basic swimming.
- Just being able to use the pool.
- Kiddie pool.
- Lap abilities.
- Lap swim.
- Lap swim and lessons for kids.
- Lap swim, swim lessons.
- Lap swimming. (3)
- Leisure pool.
- Leisure swimming and anything for children.
- Lap swimming for adults with no kids around.
- None of the above.
- Open swim.
- Open swim for kids.
- Open swimming/just swimming.
- Public swim.
- Recreational swimming.
- Recreational swimming -- I would like a place to bring my grandchildren, and hopefully it would also provide swim lessons. I myself would not use it. I don't care to swim in it but my family would. I don't like swimming pools.
- Recreational swimming, lap swimming.
- Regular lap swimming.
- Regular swimming pool along with swimming lessons and exercises.
- Sauna.
- Swim in a lap pool. A class for senior citizens and middle age people called aquarobics (exercises performed by the swimming pool).
- Swim laps leisurely.
- Swim lessons.
- Swimming lessons.
- Swimming lessons and family swim.
- Swimming lessons, free swimming time with family.
- Swimming pool for laps and exercise.
- Water aerobic classes. (2)
- Water aerobics or senior exercise and adult free swim.
- Wave pool.
- We recommend that an aquatic center be a multi-use facility for us to give us a sense of community (we're too spread out as is now). I've seen this work well in a lot of other cities providing space for the elderly for aquatic therapy, etc.

Question 7: If a new aquatic center were built, what would be the TWO programs you and/or members of your family would be most likely to participate in?

- Diving.
- Masters program.
- None.
- Would not go.

Question 10: If a community center were built, what would be the TWO MOST important elements/features to include in the facility?

- An ice rink set up to be usable year round since we as a family have to currently commute some distance in the county to reach any ice rink for hockey, ice skating, etc.
- A place for teenagers to go in this town. A place where teens twelve years and older can occupy their minds. The town could use a movie theater. I'd like to see a better shopping center, not necessarily a strip mall.
- Activities for special needs adults and seniors.
- Aquatic center.
- Baseball fields and a pool.
- Class for teens or kids.
- Classes for the younger children.
- Classroom facilities.
- Farmers market.
- I own my own property and have my own pool. My kids are grown so none of this appeals to me.
- I really wouldn't use this facility at all.
- Kickball and toddler time.
- Needs to be a place for teens to hang.
- None of the above.
- Skating ring for ice hockey.
- Space for senior activities.
- Teen center.
- Tennis courts, boys and girls clubs where kids can go to after school.
- Theater, training.
- TV room to show movies.

Question 11: Select the TWO MOST important factors to you and your family in choosing recreational programs and facilities.

- Facilities and activities that could work for a person who is a paraplegic in our family.
- A new movie theater. New restaurants with bars or Mexican style types. There's only sushi places here, and they need more variety.
- A nicely built architectural building rather than something hastily put together.
- Activities for kids, day camps and the pool.
- Affordability.
- Availability when we showed up.
- Clean and safe programs as well as facilities.
- Cleanliness. (2)

- Cleanliness and class times.
- Cleanliness and security of the facility.
- Cleanliness of the area. Bathrooms for example in restaurants, many times are out of toilet paper, and people feel like it's not clean to use in general. The hand sanitizer is available. This is the same for the parks restrooms.
- Cleanliness of the facilities.
- Cleanliness.
- Community time.
- Cost. (11)
- Enjoyment and safety.
- Environment and privacy/no screaming kids.
- Environment that fosters having fun rather than emphasizing too much competition. Good sportsmanship taught by the instructors is more important and is better for my kids to learn.
- Family friendly.
- Farmers' market.
- Flexible schedule.
- Free for the people. We need our tax dollars paid for this (our city taxes).
- Fun for kids and adults and safety.
- How much is it?
- How much it is.
- I don't want a recreational facility. I don't want our tax dollars spent on that right now.
- I'd like it available to many groups, to everyone, not just the city or city groups.
- If there was a membership or user fee to use it.
- I'm trying a new experience for me.
- It should serve a broad base of the community and should be attractive to entire community, with and without money.
- Kid and gender friendly activities for both sexes.
- Kid friendly.
- Kid friendly classes.
- Lap pool and heated pool and a teen center.
- Location NE 8th and 228th.
- No overcrowding/safety.
- Open to all types of recreation and people's interests.
- Oriented towards kids.
- Pet friendly.
- Play areas for children and a shaded spot where we can sit with our infant.
- Playing tennis if there is a tennis court. We need enough picnic tables.
- Price. (4)
- Professionalism and safety.
- Safe and clean.
- Safety and social environment.
- Safety in the programs and/or facilities and cleanliness in the facilities.
- Safety of facility.
- Safety. Well lit location, well staffed.
- Schedule of classes and programs.

- Schedule of programs, activities at a convenient time that I want to go to.
- Snack bar inside the center.
- Staying out of the rain.
- Tennis courts.
- The community center and parks.
- The cost.
- The price. Lots of rich people live up here but we aren't one of them. We want some adult only hours be available for us.
- They would have to be properly supervised to make sure no hoodlums or troublemakers would be there. It would have to be well publicized to make sure people are aware of it and coming to it.
- Warm pool.
- We really would like a pool/aquatic center.
- We visit where our friends want to go for recreation.
- Well organized, clean with good customer service.
- Year round activities.

Question 19: How do you generally utilize the trails in Sammamish?

- Just exploring.
- Looking for birds.
- Motorcycling (dirt bike on the trails).
- My kids rollerblade.
- My teenage children use the sport courts.
- Rollerblading. I would like the East Lake Sammamish trail paved.

Question 20: Please select the TWO MOST important destinations your family would like to see trails connect within the City.

- I'm not interested since I live right next to the Sammamish Trail.
- The trails are fine the way they are.
- To the lake.

Question 25: Since incorporation Sammamish has continued to build new parks and renovate existing parks. As this work will be ongoing, please identify the THREE MOST important amenities you would like included in future parks.

- More viewable gardens.
- Aquatic center.
- Adding lights on some of the walking paths.
- Adequate parking.
- Restrooms.
- Restrooms and drinking fountains for people and dogs.
- Bike paths and climbing walls.
- Dock or boat launch area for Lake Sammamish.
- Fishing access other than just the fishing dock at Pine Lake.
- Fountain.
- Restrooms.

- Maintain what we have.
- Maintenance guarantee in the parks (maintenance bond).
- Maintenance.
- More barbeque pits so we can cook hot dogs.
- Open space.
- Parking, restrooms, multipurpose use.
- Parks on the lake. Pave the trails on East Lake Sammamish.
- Pool.
- Restrooms.
- Restrooms.
- Restrooms.
- Restrooms.
- Rock wall.
- RV (recreational vehicle) park for motor homes because we are from Walla Walla.
- Skate park and BMX park.
- Sports center for fitness.
- Stage with an amphitheater where people could perform.
- Swings, restrooms and wild areas.
- There's no waterfront handicap accessibility. The pathways are pretty restrictive at Pine Lake Park and Beaver Lake Park. Things need to be compacted, leveled out and gradually sloped to maintain accessibility.
- Working bathrooms, well-lit area.

Question 31: What TWO arts and cultural programs would you most like the City of Sammamish and the Arts Commission to offer?

- A practice place for kids to practice music whether as a rock band, or an orchestra, etc. where people can't complain about noise levels would be good to have.
- Band shell.
- Civic activities like bike races or street fairs.
- Cultural.
- Culture programs.
- Customs cars shows.
- Exhibits such as antique cars.
- Family art program.
- Festivals similar to the bite of Seattle where they have food from different countries.
- General community arts stuff, I like it all.
- Have the Wednesday Market extended, having it on Saturday.
- Historical things are very important.
- Holiday celebrations, 4th of July Parade and that kind of thing.
- International events, celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday.
- Interactive art.
- Kid friendly arts.
- Kids programs.
- Live performances.
- Movie nights in the park.
- Nature programs akin to the ones at Mercer Slough, Lakemont or Seward Park.

- No idea.
- Showcasing local artists.
- Summer camps for kids.
- Teen dances.
- Ultimate Frisbee or other sports tournaments.
- Youth and art, let the creativity flow with the kids.

Question 32: Please select the TWO types of public art you would most like to see included in the new Sammamish Town Center.

- Any of these are fine with me as long as they are donated. I don't think our taxes should be spent on this and government should not be involved.
- Fountain.
- Fountains.
- Historic house.
- I think all public areas need to have adequate places for people to sit.
- Local artists.
- Nice landscaping.
- Something that is animated, something that moves like kinetic art.
- Water or spray fountains with lighting.

Question 34: Is here anything else you would like to share or comment on?

- The pool is very important. The old library for the pool would be good. I have very strong feelings the money is not being spent like it is.
- A comment on whether or not to carve the stumps near the Safeway. There was talk about carving the stumps into artistic designs. An artist would be hired at a cost of \$2500.00 to carve something distinctive. This would be a good addition to the city. I really like the idea of a town clock, a swimming pool, and the P-patch.
- Activities involving the community in this time of unemployment like P-patches could bring the community together. I also think outdoor movies would be great.
- All the city is going to do is raise taxes for these things. I'm a senior citizen and not at all for raising taxes.
- Always consider maintenance please. Have it be a main priority like everything else.
- An interesting side-note is I work for the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, and we did a similar study on the feasibility of a swimming pool.
- Be careful with taxes. Keep it under control.
- Be fiscally responsible. I think sometimes our city spends money on unnecessary things and overlooks the important things. For example, the infrastructure in the parking lots. Make more space for minivans and larger vehicles - don't fill them with compact car spaces. We just went to a splash/spray park in Bellevue at the Crossroads area and there were full sized family vans that couldn't open their doors properly due to the limited space in the parking area. If two or three full sized family vans were all trying to park there the side and/or rear doors could not all be opened normally.
- Build the aquatic center as quick as you can. The annual increase in property taxes of \$250 shouldn't be a problem for anyone. Make the pool indoor and outdoors.
- City of Sammamish, don't spend any more money! They just don't have it and I don't want my taxes raised for art sculptures or a skateboard park!

- Consider more parking at the Town Center. Right now there isn't enough.
- During hard financial times people will have to spend a bit less. The city is really into fire and police departments. Recreational and parks might have to take a back seat for awhile.
- Focus on pool and also a teen center. We also need more parking.
- Forget everything else and build a pool!
- From my neighborhood I don't have a safe trail or sidewalk so I can walk to a grocery store. I would love to safely walk or bike with my children to either of the two grocery stores nearby.
- Funding is going to be the issue. The aquatic center is more important then widening the sidewalks and putting in planting strips. That isn't important. So many areas where the money could of be better spent.
- Go a little at a time. Our town has only limited tax revenue coming local business. So we have to pay ourselves and nobody wants to do that.
- Greater circulation at the library. They need more books. Improve the library. It's nice but needs more books. We need to build the community center and aquatic center.
- I hope the council members remember that they have a job, but that job doesn't mean dreaming up ideas on how to raise taxes. Remember they aren't spending their own money. They have to be wise with spending when you have ten percent of the workforce out of work. The government really needs to look carefully at the way they spend money, and do the best with what they already have. If the community really needs something great, build it, but remember the economy. You are dealing with other people's money.
- I really use the East Lake Sammamish Trail. A lakefront park would be great, that is important to me.
- I am against being taxed to have these services, buildings, art and so on in Sammamish. Our economy is struggling enough, and I do not believe we should be taxed for facilities we may not use, want or be able to afford.
- I am concerned about Soaring Eagle Park and the soccer fields and athletic fields that are being installed here in my neighborhood. I am opposed to the night lighting interfering with the quiet enjoyment of personal residences living near the park. I am also concerned there will be inadequate parking which will result in the overflow going into private neighborhoods. This problem may also give rise to vandalism, litter, clean up and so on. It is a neighborhood with small children and this may give rise to making residents feel unsafe.
- I am disappointed that all questions assume the city is going to spend and what to build. They aren't considering who is going to pay and how the money is going to be raised. I don't want to be forced to pay for these things, especially in this economy through raising of taxes. Who cares about a clock or whatever?
- I am interested in additional sports facilities and ball fields for the youth. I am not interested in the city buying more land. We have enough parks!
- I am not interested in the city expanding their park system. They already took 1.3 acres of mine for a trail to run through it so that I cannot use my property, but I am still responsible to pay taxes on it, and the city didn't pay me a fair price. Now I have condos right next to me. Because I was afraid the City of Sammamish would take more of our 40 acres of property unfairly, my family sold the other 25 acres.

- I am opposed to the aquatic or community center.
- I appreciate they are trying to get feedback from the residents on how they may spend their money. A great divide is created in neighborhoods when the original owners are older than the younger couples who move in and have children because they have differing interests and needs. So, there needs to be some balance when taking the survey responses into consideration.
- I appreciate the fact that the City is asking for input and I hope they don't stop here. I want them to proceed with plans as it makes our area that much nicer.
- I couldn't answer the question on land acquisition for trails, new parks and recreational areas because of the recent land acquisition given by the city by a resident. My answer would depend on just how much land the city is now sitting on. I don't think the city should be interested in acquiring land if there is already enough land to be used for this purpose.
- I don't have children. I go to Beaver and Pine Lake with my dogs.
- I don't think the aquatic center should be built. Keep taxes low. Don't give in to big developers because small homeowners will suffer.
- I don't want the Freid House or a clock for \$100,000. I'd like a complete uninterrupted north to south street on 244th, from Fall City to I-90 or Duthie Hill Road. Get rid of the barricades on 232nd, there are some by the golf course and north by Sahalee. No more construction of roundabouts.
- I feel they are stealing property. I don't want any part of this and will not support any funding!
- I go to Redmond for everything including swim lessons for my children. I go off the plateau for just about everything recreation wise.
- I happy that you guys are gathering our opinions.
- I have lived on the plateau for twenty years. When they decided to incorporate we knew that the taxes would go up because there are no businesses here. We have to pick up the bill and I'm just a little tired of that.
- I hope they get the bond for the pool.
- I just think the parking is always an issue. It makes it difficult to go to these things. Water parks are very important.
- I just want the pool, we have nothing, all active area with all interaction for the kids.
- I know money is tight right now. All of these things you are talking about it, makes the community. For the better of the city you got to pay for this stuff. I am willing to pay the taxes for this. Without this, everybody lives their own life. You are a good man to be doing this job.
- I like doing the survey but it has too many choices for a phone survey, it was not well written. I had three children grow up in Sammamish and we need the parks s and rec for the kids. Above all we need the community center. The kids need a place to hang out.
- I like what the city is doing to keep up communications using the newsletter and e-mail. I like the program I was reading about that talked about cooperating with nearby cities to relieve the tax burden. I think all young people should have somewhere to go.
- I need to point out that the city needs to be careful of the overgentrification of parks in Sammamish. Since the new park director started a few years back, I have noticed this happening. Areas we like are all primed up, they look good, but too much of it spoils the

natural qualities of the areas. Also, no more regular play structures, please build something unique.

- I really want a community center!
- I really want a pool!! When I moved here I didn't understand why the City of Sammamish didn't have one! It really surprised me!
- I support the general maintenance of parks, but I think funding should go to schools and teachers in the community.
- I support the Sammamish commitment to the present parks and recreation facilities and I believe renovations are great but I don't want or need new facilities because they would increase taxes.
- I think Sammamish is very reckless in spending money on the traffic roundabouts. They expect more money to build the library and we cannot afford what they want.
- I think a combined issue on the ballot would make me vote no. I would only vote for a community center.
- I think a rec center would be ideal, I don't know how such an affluent community doesn't have a community center.
- I think our economy is too tight to do a lot of artwork. I'm not pleased with the quality of most of what I see around the Northwest.
- I think Sammamish is a nice place to live, but I am concerned. I think maintaining a good healthy lifestyle is a good, but it doesn't mean spending more money. A lot of times, newly developed areas feel they have to show off. They do this by growing and spending when people can use what already have. For example, with the aquatic park, there is a swimming pool not too far away at a YMCA. I think the focus should be having nice friendly neighborhoods rather than commercial enterprises - bring people together instead.
- I think that the City of Sammamish should be very fiscally responsible and not invest in anything in what is considered a luxury at this time.
- I think the aquatic center would be very expensive.
- I think they have a lot of great things. I would like to see more green space instead of art, concrete and metal.
- I think we need senior services. We need them very much.
- I want an ice skating ring in Sammamish. I think it is really important for the kids. I don't think the aquatic center is necessary because there is one in Issaquah already. I don't want an increase in taxes.
- I want a pool.
- I want Sammamish to focus on maintaining what they have and the expenditures should be on maintenance instead of new facilities until the economy improves.
- I want the city to get these events going. I'm talking about the things t you mentioned in this survey. I'd like to see another survey on the cost on the cost construction. Does it end after it's built? When the structure is paid off? It depends on the pricing of these different events. If they jack up the price too high then it's useless.
- I want the pool! They need to enlarge the parking at the Duthie Hill Park (mountain biking). People are parking where they shouldn't be. Hurry and fix that, we are already having accidents.
- I want the aquatic center to be located in Sammamish instead of surrounding cities.
- I want to see an aquatic center built.

- I wish the option for building an aquatic center with the YMCA were still on the table.
- I would have answered differently when children were younger.
- I would just like the people who are planning this to seriously consider the impact on the surrounding residential area. I like my privacy!
- I would like the city to keep us more updated on the construction work in the fourth street area. Those of us who live in the area need to be kept updated.
- I would like to receive a mailing my friend receives from Sammamish. She has young children, and I have a teenager, maybe that is why I'm not on the mailing list. It is a recreational guide of sorts. It is colored and has coupons. I would really appreciate receiving this publication.
- I would like to see ethnic cooking and baking classes offered, as well as knitting classes.
- I would like to see improvements at the proposed East Lake Sammamish water access park.
- I would like to see more bathrooms and water provided in the parks. I'd like more trails too.
- I would like to see the East Lake Sammamish Trail paved so we can rollerblade and bike on it. Just have public access to the beach and the park and you can have picnics there north of Sammamish and south of Redmond on East Lake Sammamish Road.
- I would like to see the regional Lake Sammamish Trail paved so other bikes besides mountain bikes can ride these trails. When they opened the trail, they said they would pave it but nothing ever happened.
- I would like to see the structure of the new buildings to be appealing and attractive. Make them pretty and blended into our community appropriately.
- I would like to tell them not to do anything that will increase our taxes. Stay within the budget!
- I would rather have an aquatic center than a community center.
- I wouldn't mind seeing there being more parks with minimal parking to encourage walking to parks. I don't like the idea of artificial lighting and artificial turf being installed in parks. I think parks should have mostly natural lighting.
- I'd like a sidewalk on Inglewood Hill Road from Lake Sammamish all the way up the hill.
- I'd like the city to cut down the 30 foot stumps at the entrance to Eastlake High School. They are talking about making those into sculptures, don't want little wooden teddy bears. They need to come down. If they cut them down, they need to cut down the stumps.
- I'd like to see more parking at Lake Sammamish and more access points to the trail. I'd love to have a waterfront park.
- I'd like to see more riding trails. I think the police do a pretty good job, but if the officers could be a little more friendly, that would help.
- I'd prefer the money be spent on sidewalks. In our neighborhood, we have no sidewalks and we're on a dangerous hill. We're in Waverly Hills and it's a narrow road and it's scary because there is no sidewalk. It drops off to one side and if a car came, you'd have to leap off to the other side. I'd rather they spend money on that than a community center.
- If it's possible I'd like the city to put the aquatic center on the ballot to be decided by the people.
- If there was a community garden, I would be first in line to use it.

- I'm concerned with the teenagers. Their needs aren't listened to because they do not vote on funding. Parents represent their children by their vote.
- I'm all about the parks. I would like Sammamish to provide an indoor facility for teens and more access to the lake.
- I'm glad that this survey is being conducted. I hope you are getting many people to do this.
- I'm most interested in is the aquatic center. I've been busy researching all the things around us. We have to go to Kirkland to get our child swimming lessons. The instructor has a tarp or something like plastic walls and a canvas top and it closes up in the winter and doesn't give lessons. They keep the pool quite warm. I would hope they could do something like this at the new aquatic pool. I would like a salt water option too.
- Improve the trail system. Some of them should be at least paved. We could rollerblade, and my little kids could bicycle on it. It would also be nice to have that option. I know it will be expensive. The parks are always clean. It's ridiculous that bikers are on the main road when they could be on the trail instead. It's a long stretch so it really slows things down when it comes to traffic. Also, when they build play structures on ball fields, it's a hazard when they are built too close to the parking lot. They should be positioned differently, so it wouldn't be such a concern.
- Improved ball field that we already have before new ones are built.
- In this economy when people are losing their jobs and salaries are being cut like mine was, the last thing we need is adding more parks and buying land. I can't afford higher taxes. If they put anything on the ballot, I'm going to vote no and encourage all my neighbors to vote no. I don't think they should spend this money on parks until the economy turns around and people are working and not being forced out of their homes. I can't believe they're contemplating this. I can't go clothes shopping or take vacations. I'm just struggling to pay basic expenses. That ten dollars a month, I can't afford that! My neighbors had to move and another neighbor had been looking for a job for six months!
- Interesting ideas. Sharing park options with Redmond would be interesting.
- It doesn't mean we don't support the young families in Sammamish. We don't have young children, so we wouldn't use the facilities in the same way.
- It is important to give kids something to do in the summer. This is why I like Pine Lake because I send my kids there. Mercer Island is very popular because kids have a place to go and it also has good art programs. We have far more kids than Mercer Island so it would probably be more important for us to have a facility like that.
- It seems we have multiple school base physical fitness infrastructure. It seems strange we are building a separate community center when we aren't using the other facilities to their capacity. It is a bad use of taxpayer money to build redundant facilities. We should use public school facilities for the community, and share facilities with other communities.
- It would really be awesome to have a pool that could be used all year round. An off-leash park would be nice, but I really like Marymoor Park, because it has more interesting things like landscapes and water for the dogs to play in. It's hard to imagine that we could compete, so let's just put all our money in the pool.
- It's a very comprehensive survey. I am still going to write the city council about having a trail for dogs that doesn't require a leash.

- It's a well run city. It's well managed. The parks have improved so much since we moved here three or four years ago.
- It's been a very long time since the park department talked about a pool being built. It was promised and never built. It's been a long time coming and it's due now. My child has grown and graduated from college.
- Keep up the good work!
- Lake Sammamish waterfront development is my only priority. It should have parking because I can't walk there and I'd like to use it to fish or kayak.
- Leave some of the open spaces alone. Don't just keep building new things. I would like to have more renovations. Improve junior high field (Inglewood) turf.
- Less art and more paying bills city/ more worried about streets and services.
- Less taxes baby.
- More activities for teens.
- More activities geared toward youngsters.
- More clarification for the questions would be helpful. The sports fields are also important.
- More development in North Sammamish.
- More Handicapped spots for parking and closer to park.
- My focus is what is going to be available for the children - toddler through teenagers.
- Need more sports fields with more artificial turf.
- No expansion on East Lake Sammamish Parkway.
- No interest in higher taxes to provide this. They should figure out how to do it with the money they have.
- Of all the things that we need, I think we really need a disc golf course. It's high on the priority. I think it would be a great way to get out to use the parks and wouldn't cost that much to establish. So, the cost is low to the benefits that it has.
- Only one person lives in this household. All my children are gone and there would be no use for playgrounds, etc. in my household.
- Parking at Pine Lake Park is insufficient.
- Parking is tough. They need to get a handle on the Duthie Hill Bike Park. Parking is a disaster because people park alongside the road making it very difficult for other drivers.
- Parking needs to be added to the trail by Lake Sammamish that connects to the Gilman Trail.
- People find where they want to go for entertainment. They should get volunteers instead of increasing taxes. We cannot spend what we don't have.
- Reduce the length of the survey or do it online.
- Regarding the parks, I would use them more if I could set up my own volleyball court. They told me I couldn't because of their sprinkler system.
- Repair the bathrooms in those areas. Many times they are not clean enough.
- Road improvements I guess. We need more stoplights up here. Trying to get on the 228th from our development is tough especially in the morning. Not on every block, but on major entrances to developments on 228th.
- Sammamish already has so much in and around it that we don't need to spend a whole bunch of public dollars just to compete with neighboring cities. We should have something unique rather than repetitive or competitive.

- Sammamish really does need some sort of activity center or pool. Right now you have to leave town to find a pool open the public. We shouldn't have to leave town.
- Survey is good, pave East Sammamish trail.
- Shorter survey.
- Summer concerts in the park would be a nice gathering venue.
- Spray Pine Lane Park for ticks. I'm totally in favor of the pool.
- Stop wasting our money! Stop spending on art and fringe activities!
- The aquatic center is a crazy idea, especially since there is one in Issaquah, that's 20 minutes away and is underused. I don't understand why we should spend money for an aquatic center when there is one so close and not fully used.
- The aquatic center is a great idea. We are all for it.
- The city needs to focus on what we already have.
- The city should be very very judicious when they are spending the money we give them.
- The city, in these hard times, needs to focus on maintenance and existing infrastructure. Focus on necessary cutbacks to help the deficiencies we all ready have.
- The Eastside definitely needs an aquatic facility with a fixed lane pool with the availability to hold swim-meets. There should be room for six lanes for competition, and for the citizenry to also be there for regular swimming.
- The main focus on doing something on the Lake Sammamish waterfront.
- The question about parking doesn't give a realistic selection of options. Poor parking is not always only the result of the events mentioned. The question at the beginning asking about wanting a community center and only in the next question does it give examples of what it might have seems to be sequenced in reverse order.
- The summer concerts at Pine Lake Park, I love those!! I wanna keep those!!
- The survey is much too long. I bike on the King Country Trail daily, and it's called the East Lake Sammamish Trail.
- The survey was really long. I would of liked to have seen it so I could have narrowed down my choices.
- The turf fields need upgrading. At 2012 Eastlake will have 200-300 more kids and their after-school sports will suffer because it has no lights.
- There are too many options to remember them all. You need to make them shorter or something.
- There is a park next door to us. The brand new biking park on Duthie Hill Rd. Everyone is parking on the street and we can't get out of our driveway. It makes it hard to drive down Duthie Hill Rd.
- These things make our city prettier.
- They need to improve the connectivity in Sammamish and especially remove Trossachs barrier.
- They need to be very careful when they choose art. Sometimes you see things and wonder, oh, that's art? Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent and there needs to be a higher standard so it doesn't look like the tin can buildings like the old library. There needs to be a board that is really going to study what kind of art is put up.
- They need to start thinking about spending less money.
- They should specify community fields if they are included as part of the parks system in that first question, if community fields are part of the Issaquah parks and recreation system.

- They should take all that money they are going to spend and spend it on keeping what we have nice. Repair the walking trails, keep them safe, have bike patrols and keep the bathrooms clean. We should just take care of what we have.
- This has been a good survey and I'm glad you captured my attention saying it was for Sammamish.
- This is the time to spend money on subsidies and not all this other stuff.
- This survey is way too long!
- Too many taxes. Find another way to pay for this other than raising the taxes.
- Two very important considerations for choosing recreational programs and facilities are two things the city is lacking. There is a large population of special needs adults in Sammamish, and we need activities and recreation for this segment of the population. We also need to improve transportation to these activities for adults with special needs.
- We definitely wanted Mr. Odell for mayor or city council. My wife and I told him we wanted the aquatic center. We told him we would vote for him if the idea of an aquatic center was seriously considered. We voted for him, now all there is is talk about an aquatic center.
- We have horses and we have been landlocked. I would like to see more horse trails. There is nowhere to ride my horses anymore.
- We just need more things for younger kids. There are a lot of young kids up here.
- We live close to Beaver Lake Park, and I have some comments on the preserving the character of the park. For example, Pine Lake, taking into consideration that it's nice, however in my mind it has an open park feeling with walkways always manicured, and neat and tidy. Now, Beaver Park has a more rural and a laid back feeling to it. I like the Beaver Park atmosphere much better.
- We live in a wonderful city.
- We need more bike lanes on the streets. Improvement on SE 32nd is great. The 228 bike lane peters out and made a mess of 228 being a bike viable route.
- We need more dog parks and the aquatic center is needed very much.
- We need more public and diversified access to Lake Sammamish.
- We need to upgrade skate park.
- We really like the new city center. I wish we had more parking spaces.
- We really need a soft path on West Beaver Lake Drive.
- We want the aquatic center and don't bother with upgrading the existing parks or roads. I'm content with the way they are, and I wish we had a pool, and I want the money used the way.
- We would really support the pool. We are all for it.
- Well, my comment is that this is a tough time to consider adding funding for recreational things.
- What is the timeframe for these planned changes?
- Will the expenses be over the amount of revenue for either a aquatic center or a community center? I've never heard that there are funds already available in the City to afford either facility at this time. I'd prefer we hold off on building either facility until we can afford to do so. What with the budget crossover point coming up in the near future, if we build those things now without being financially prepared to do so we might have to in the future make cuts in police or other city services that could have been avoided if

we just waited to build either a aquatic center or a community center at a much later date.

- Yes. We would very much like to see an increase in the use of parks and recreation combined with less commercial development.
- You're doing a good job, for a small city.

Appendix 2: Survey Questionnaire

Hello, my name is _____, and I am a research assistant from Hebert Research, an eastside research firm. This research is on behalf of the City of Sammamish. We would like your advice to assist in the City of Sammamish's parks, recreation and open space planning. I can assure your answers will remain strictly confidential. This survey only includes residents of the City of Sammamish. May I continue with the survey?

[IF REFUSE TO TAKE THE SURVEY] If you'd prefer to take the survey online, it's also available on the City of Sammamish's website. Thank you for your time. **[TERMINATE]**

1. In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited parks, recreation and open space facilities in the City of Sammamish? **[RECORD NUMBER. IF 0, SKIP TO Q. 5]**
2. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is "not at all satisfied" and 10 is "very satisfied," how do you rate your overall satisfaction with Sammamish's parks and recreation facilities and services? **[RECORD RATING]**
[Question asked in 2008 community survey]
3. On the same 0-10 scale, how do you rate the overall appearance of Sammamish's parks and recreation facilities? **[RECORD RATING]**
[Question asked in 2008 community survey]
4. Which specific sources of information do you use to find out about parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs, and cultural arts opportunities in Sammamish? **[DO NOT READ, RECORD ALL RESPONSES]**
 - a. City Website
 - b. Television 21
 - c. Sammamish Library
 - d. City email alert
 - e. Recreation Guide
 - f. City Event/Volunteer Event
 - g. Newspapers
 - h. City Newsletter
 - i. Word of Mouth
 - j. Chamber of Commerce
 - k. Call to the Parks and Recreation office
 - l. Other – specify
 - m. Don't know

AQUATIC/COMMUNITY CENTER QUESTIONS

An aquatic facility is being considered for Sammamish and may serve both competitive and/or leisure swimming needs.

5. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 is “not at all likely” and 10 is “highly likely,” how likely would you and/or members of your family be to use an aquatic facility? **[RECORD RATING. IF RATING OF 0, SKIP TO Q. 9]**

[Question asked in 2006 parks survey]

6. If a new aquatic center were built, what would be the TWO important elements/features you and/or members of your family would be most likely to use? **[RECORD 1-2]**
- Competitive Swimming Pool (minimum 6-lanes, 25 meters)
 - Water Slides
 - Splash/Spray Area
 - Warm Water Therapy Pool
 - Lazy River
 - Zero-Depth Entry Pool
 - Space for Birthday Parties/Special Events
 - Other – specify
 - Don't know
7. If a new aquatic center were built, what would be the TWO programs you and/or members of your family would be most likely to participate in? **[RECORD 1-2]**
- Swim Lessons
 - Competitive Swimming/Swim Teams
 - Lap Swimming
 - Open Swim/Family Swim
 - Water Exercise Classes
 - Rehabilitation Programs/Water Therapy
 - Water Polo
 - Other – specify
 - Don't know
8. What type of aquatic facility would you prefer? **[CHOOSE ONE]**
- Indoor
 - Outdoor/Seasonal Pool
 - Both (Indoor and Outdoor)
 - None

A community center is also being considered. This facility that would serve a broad range of citizens and provide a wide array of programs and activities. The facility may or may not be constructed jointly with an aquatic center.

9. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 is “very unlikely” and 10 is “very likely,” how likely would you and/or members of your family be to use a community center? **[RECORD RATING]**

10. If a community center were built, what would be the TWO MOST important elements/features to include in the facility? **[RECORD 1-2-3]**
- a. Fitness center, indoor sport courts, and/or running and walking track
 - b. Arts and Craft Facilities
 - c. Multi-Purpose Gymnasium
 - d. Dance Studio
 - e. Rock Climbing Wall
 - f. Banquet and meeting facilities with kitchen
 - g. Space for Childcare
 - h. Other - specify

11. Select the TWO MOST important factors to you and your family in choosing recreational programs and facilities. **[DO NOT READ; PROBE AND CLASSIFY]**
- a. Operating Hours of Facilities
 - b. Quality of Instructors/Programs
 - c. Proximity to Work or Home
 - d. Availability of Childcare
 - e. Overall Value for Programs/Services Received
 - f. Quality of Facilities/Equipment
 - g. Easy Access/Availability of Parking
 - h. Selection of Programs and Activities
 - i. Other - specify

12. Several potential locations are being considered for the aquatic and community centers. Of the following options, what is your preferred location? **[CHOOSE ONE]**
- a. Near City Hall and the Library/, 228th Ave SE & SE 8th St.
 - b. South, near the Pine Lake Shopping Center (QFC), 228th Ave SE & Issaquah-Pine Lake Road
 - c. North, near the Safeway Shopping Center, 228th Ave SE & NE 8th St.
 - d. Does Not Matter as long as It's Inside the Proposed Town Center/Future Downtown Area
 - e. Does Not Matter as long as It's Inside the Sammamish City Limits
 - f. Does Not Matter
 - g. Don't know

A regional approach (partnership with our neighboring Eastside cities) may be considered as a cost saving measure for the construction and operation of a community center and/or an aquatic center.

13. What is the longest amount of time you would be willing to spend to travel from your home to a community center? **[RECORD NUMBER OF MINUTES]**
14. What is the longest amount of time you would be willing to spend to travel to an aquatic center? **[RECORD NUMBER OF MINUTES]**

One funding option for a community center and aquatic center is a parks bond and an accompanying operating levy, which would result in an increase in your annual property taxes.

15. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “very unlikely” and 10 is “very likely,” how likely would you be to support construction and operation of both an aquatic and a community center if the average increase in property taxes was ___ ? **[ROTATE -price elasticity]**
- a. \$30 per month
 - b. \$20 per month
 - c. \$10 per month
 - d. \$5 per month

ADDITIONAL GENERAL QUESTIONS

16. A number of potential parks and recreation capital projects have been identified for completion in future years. On a scale of 0-10, where 0 is highly unlikely and 10 is highly likely, how likely are you to use each of the following facilities? **[RECORD RATING FOR EACH ITEM]**
- a. New Playground, and Shoreline and Parking Improvements at Beaver Lake Park
 - b. New Spray Park/Splash Area and Picnic Shelter at East Sammamish Park
 - c. Soft-Surface Trail along West Beaver Lake Drive
 - d. Upgraded athletic fields at Eastlake High School, or Pine Lake Middle School, or Another Site
 - e. A new Sammamish Landing Park on the Lake Sammamish Waterfront
 - f. Beaver Lake Preserve, with Expanded Trails and Provide Waterfront Access
17. If you could select only ONE of the following, knowing that the other options would not be funded, what do you think the primary parks and recreation project focus should be for the next 2 to 6 years?
- a. Acquisition of Land for Parks and Open Space
 - b. New Sports Fields, such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse or football fields
 - c. Construction of a New Community Center/Aquatic Center
 - d. Construction of New Trails, Bikeways and Paths
 - e. Don't know

TRAILS QUESTIONS

18. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 is “not at all interested” and 10 is “highly interested,” how interested are you in **new trails, bikeways, and paths in Sammamish?** **[RECORD RATING]**
[Similar question asked in the 2006 and 2008 parks survey.]
19. How do you generally utilize the trails in Sammamish? **[RECORD ALL RESPONSES] [IF ANSWERED “DO NOT USE,” SKIP Q. 22]**
[Similar question asked in the 2002 Trails Survey]

- a. Walking
- b. Jogging
- c. Biking
- d. Hiking
- e. Walking the Dog
- f. Mountain Biking
- g. Horseback Riding
- h. Wheelchair-accessible
- i. Do Not Use
- j. Other - specify

20. Please select the TWO MOST important destinations your family would like to see trails connect within the City? **[RECORD 1-2]**

[Similar questions asked in the 2002 Trails Survey]

- a. Other parks
- b. Regional Trail Systems
- c. Schools
- d. Sammamish neighborhoods
- e. Cities linked to Sammamish
- f. Commercial Centers: workplaces and retail services
- g. Municipal Facilities (City Hall, Library etc.)
- h. Other - specify

21. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is "very unsatisfied" and 10 is "very satisfied," how would you rate your overall satisfaction with the trail systems available to you and your family in Sammamish? **[RECORD RATING]**

PARKS QUESTIONS

22. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means "not at all interested" and 10 means "highly interested," how interested are you in potential ***land acquisition for open spaces and trails?*** **[RECORD RATING]**

[Question asked in 2006 and 2008 parks survey.]

23. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means "not at all interested" and 10 means "highly interested," how interested are you in potential ***land acquisition for future parks and facilities***, for example, new community parks, new recreation facilities, and expansion of existing parks? **[RECORD RATING]**

[Question asked in 2006 and 2008 parks survey.]

24. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means "not at all interested" and 10 means "highly interested," how interested are you in improvements for ***athletic fields***? In many cases this would mean installing synthetic turf and lights to extend playability at existing fields. **[RECORD RATING]**

[Similar question asked in 2008 parks survey.]

25. Since incorporation Sammamish has continued to build new parks and renovate existing parks. As this work will be ongoing, please identify the THREE MOST important amenities you would like included in future parks. **[RECORD 1-2-3]**

- a. Picnic Shelters
- b. Sports Fields, Sport Courts and/or a disc golf course
- c. Sculptures and Art Displays
- d. Playgrounds
- e. Walking Trails
- f. Spray/Splash Parks
- g. Zip Line
- h. P-Patch/Community Gardens
- i. Off-Leash Dog Areas
- j. Other - specify
- k. Don't know

26. On a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means "not important" and 10 means "very important," how important is it for you and your family to be able to walk or bike to parks and recreation facilities in Sammamish? **[RECORD RATING]**

27. How far are you willing to walk to a park or recreation facility (from your home)?

[ROTATE]

- a. ¼ mile
- b. ½ mile
- c. 1 mile
- d. 2 miles
- e. None

28. Can you usually find parking at existing Sammamish parks and recreation facilities?

[CHOOSE ONE]

- a. Yes
- b. Yes, except during special events
- c. No
- d. Don't use these facilities or don't park there

HEALTH AND WELLNESS QUESTION

29. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is "not unimportant" and 10 is "very important," how important are parks and recreation facilities for improving and maintaining overall health and wellness? **[RECORD RATING]**

CULTURAL ARTS QUESTIONS

30. In the last 12 months, how many times have you attended the following types of arts and cultural programs and/or events have you attended? **[RECORD NUMBER FOR EACH]**
- a. Dance Performances (ballet, jazz etc.)
 - b. Theater Performances (plays, musicals etc.)
 - c. Music Performances (jazz, orchestra etc.)
 - d. Other performing arts (lectures, reading, comedy etc.)
 - e. Visual Arts Events (art Walks, gallery/museum exhibition etc.)
 - f. Participatory Event (art class, choir, book club, band etc.)
31. What TWO arts and cultural programs would you most like the City of Sammamish and the Arts Commission to offer? **[DO NOT READ; PROBE AND CLASSIFY]**
- a. Theater Performances (*plays, musicals etc.*) **[DO NOT READ PARENTHESIS]**
 - b. Music Performances (*jazz, orchestra etc.*) **[DO NOT READ PARENTHESIS]**
 - c. Other performing arts (lectures, reading, comedy etc.)
 - d. Visual Arts Events (Art Walks, gallery/museum exhibition etc.)
 - e. Participatory Events (art class, choir, book club, band etc.)
 - f. Other - specify
 - g. None
 - h. Don't know
32. Please select the TWO types of public art you would most like to see included in the new Sammamish Town Center. **[RECORD 1-2]**
- a. Sculptures
 - b. Rotating Visual Displays
 - c. Interactive Art
 - d. Live Performances
 - e. Art Integrated into Infrastructure Design (i.e. art in roadways, sidewalks etc.)
 - f. City Clock/Town Hall Clock
 - g. Other - specify
 - h. None
 - i. Don't know

CONCLUSION

33. Does your household own or rent your home?
- a. Own
 - b. Rent
34. Is here anything else you would like to share or comment on? **[VERBATIM]**
35. Focus groups may be used by the City to further study and explore some of the concepts and projects introduced in the survey. Are you interested in participating in a focus group on parks and recreation? **[If Yes, need contact information from caller: name, etc.]**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know



Appendix **B**



City of Sammamish Department of Parks and Recreation Accomplishments

2005

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Park Lodge – floor and wall repair
- Beaver Lake Preserve – adopted the management plan
- Illahee Trail Improvements - City signs agreement with developer for public trail use

Programs

- First Annual Kids First-Noontime concert series

2006

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Park Lodge – restroom remodel
- East Sammamish Park – playground improvements
- East Sammamish Park – ballfield improvements
- Eastlake High School - community sports fields opened
- Sammamish Commons Park - design and development

2007

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Preserve Phase I – trails and parking
- Ebright Creek Park – design and construction
- NE Sammamish Park – tennis court improvements
- Sammamish Commons – skatepark Completed
- Skyline High School - community sports fields opened

Programs

- First Annual Holiday Lighting event

Facility Rentals

- Developed and implemented new rental policies
- Began charging residents and non-residents rates, providing residents with a discount
- Began partnering with Police for National Night Out event
- Beaver Lake Lodge revenue increased 50 percent from 2006





2007 continued

Volunteer Projects

- Rotary volunteer native planting project at Beaver Lake Lodge traffic circle
- 950 volunteer hours in the Parks and Recreation Department

2008

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Lodge – implemented recycling program, purchased new trash cans and Allied Waste delivered recycling dumpster
- Beaver Lake Park – off leash dog area designed and constructed by in-house staff
- East Sammamish Park – Master Plan adopted
- Lower Sammamish Commons – brick house was demolished
- Pine Lake Park – picnic shelter renovations
- Sammamish Commons – relocated Connie Walsworth sculpture from Lower Sammamish Commons to Pergola building on Plaza
- Sammamish Landing – City of Redmond transfers 2.35 acres of waterfront on Lake Sammamish to City of Sammamish
- Soaring Eagle Park – transfer agreement signed 6/13/08

Programs

- Purchased mobile stage for events
- Continued involvement with myparksandrecreation.com. and expanded park feature of website to include facilities and trails
- Hosted first Annual Teen Fest including a skate competition and teen concert in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club
- Planned and implemented *Fourth on the Plateau* completely in-house for the first time.
- Increased to three Recreation Guides a year
- Added a third Noontime Kids Performance
- Partnered with the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce to open a Farmer's Market
- Hosted food drive and teen feed with Sammamish Youth Board





2008 continued

Facility Rentals

- Added rental office hours (20 hours per week) at City Hall to answer rental questions and process applications
- Fields revenue at \$224,000
- Picnic shelter revenue at \$11,000
- Beaver Lake Lodge revenue at \$68,000

Volunteer Projects

- Boy scout volunteer invasive weed removal and native planting at Beaver Lake Lodge
- Boy scout volunteer trail construction and improvement at Beaver Lake Park
- Rotary volunteer native planting project at the Beaver Lake Lodge traffic circle
- Issaquah and Lake Washington School district ravine restoration project at the Sammamish Commons
- 45 percent of total City volunteer hours utilized by Parks Department
- Total volunteer hours 3,500 (up 15 percent from 2007)

2009

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Lodge – floor and restroom improvements
- Beaver Lake Lodge – interior painting
- Beaver Lake Lodge – replaced fireplace
- Beaver Lake Park – new entrance gate
- East Sammamish Park – graveled warning track installed at baseball fields
- Evans Creek Preserve – master plan adopted
- Lower Sammamish Commons – Hillside trail design and construction
- Lower Sammamish Commons – parking lot construction
- Lower Sammamish Commons – spray park inspection process complete
- Pine Lake Park – dock renovation and shoreline improvements
- Pine Lake – boardwalk phase I completed
- Sammamish Commons – repairs to skatepark plaza
- Sammamish Commons – new ADA trail (stair bypass from upper commons to lower commons trail)
- Sween House – remodel complete
- Memorial benches installed at East Sammamish Park and Pine Lake





2009 continued

Programs

- Produced third annual Fourth on the Plateau - attendance increased approximately 20 percent
- Two Noontime Kids Performances offered at Beaver Lake Park and a third at Sammamish Commons in conjunction with National Night Out
- Celebrated the City's 10th birthday with a Kid's Parade, Sammamish Days and Sammamish Nights in partnership with Sammamish Chamber of Commerce. As part of the 10th birthday, a Math Contest was held and a time capsule was buried. The time capsule contains messages from many of our current citizens to themselves or their descendants 40 years into the future. The capsule will be opened in 2049 when the City is 50 years old
- Parks Commission members implemented Sammamish Walks program, guided walking tours of local parks run by volunteers

Facility Rentals

- Nearly 800 rental contracts processed in 2009
- Fields revenue \$232,000
- Facilities revenue \$77,000
- Shelters revenue \$12,000

Volunteer Projects

- Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification project implemented
- Partnership with Washington Native Plant Society to train and lead volunteer projects
- Growth of Eagle Scout projects by 65 percent and office volunteer hours by 50 percent
- 5,590 volunteer hours (62 percent growth in volunteer hours overall)

2010

Parks/Facilities

- Beaver Lake Park – master plan adopted
- Beaver Lake Park – resurfaced off-leash dog park with pet-friendly material
- Ebright Creek Park – pilot recycling program implemented
- Lower Sammamish Commons – improved drainage around picnic shelters





2010 continued

- Pine Lake Park – playground resurfacing
- Pine Lake Park – replaced roof at restroom building
- Sammamish Landing – master plan adopted
- Sween House – interior renovated for non-profit use
- Sween House – Landscape and irrigation constructed by in-house staff

Programs

- Celebrated the tenth year of free summer concerts in the park at Pine Lake Park
- Staff lead tours of city hall for school children as well as Boy & Girls Scouts

Facility Rentals

- 747 rental contracts processed in 2010
- Fields revenue \$202,000
- Facilities revenue \$81,000
- Shelters revenue \$14,000

Volunteer Projects

- Implementation of Trail Steward Program
- Completed improvements to Pine Lake lifeguard shack by Eagle Scouts
- Community Garden Steering Committee in planning stages
- Successful implementation of Illahee Trail project with Washington Native Plant Society
- Took over Adopt A Road Program from King County
- New updated volunteer web page
- Online volunteer registration executed
- Volunteer hours total 6,757

2011

Parks/Facilities

- Community Center – feasibility study completed
- Evans Creek Preserve – phase I construction
- Recreation Center – access drive completed
- Sammamish Landing – picnic shelters, trails, and lawn constructed
- SE 8th Street Park – site A donated to City (16 acres)
- SE 8th Street Park – soft opening





2011 continued

Programs

- First city-wide Earth Day Celebration at Beaver Lake Park
- KidsFirst noontime series performances were increased and offered for first time at East Sammamish Park and Ebright Creek Park
- Evans Creek Preserve Grand Opening, including food vendors, wildlife education, tree planting and bluegrass band

Facility Rentals

- Fields revenue at \$260,000
- Picnic shelter revenue at \$16,000
- Beaver Lake Lodge revenue at \$76,000

Volunteer Projects

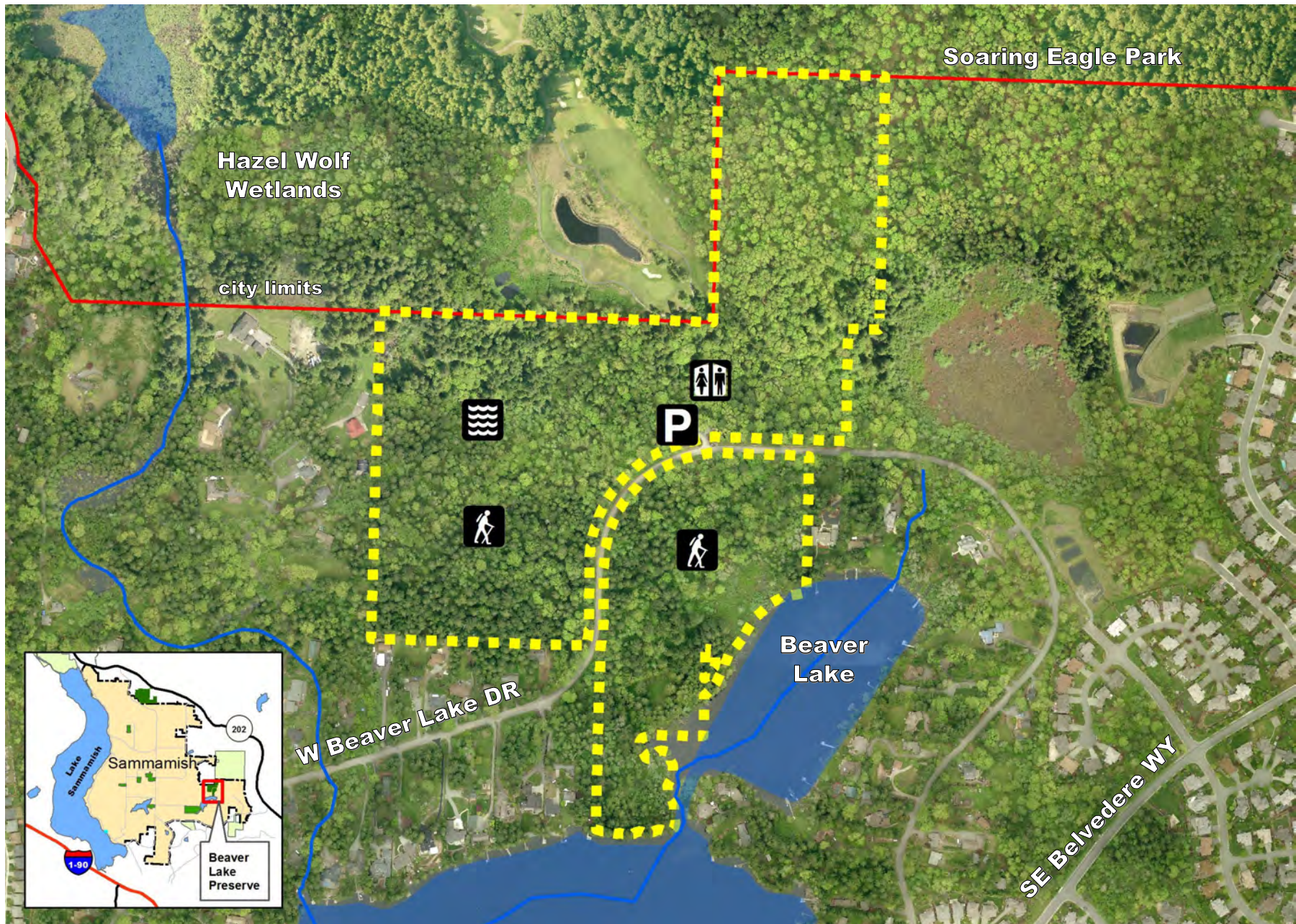
- Took over Adopt A Road Program from King County
- Celebrated completion of Community Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification
- Horseshoe pit installed at Pine Lake Park by Eagle Scouts
- Three viewing platforms built at Evans Creek Preserve by Eagle Scouts
- Evans Creek Preserve trail building volunteer projects
- Day of Caring; 200 volunteers at SE 8th Street Park and Evans Creek Preserve
- Completed WNPS projects at Illahee and Lower Sammamish Commons
- 16,373 total volunteer hours





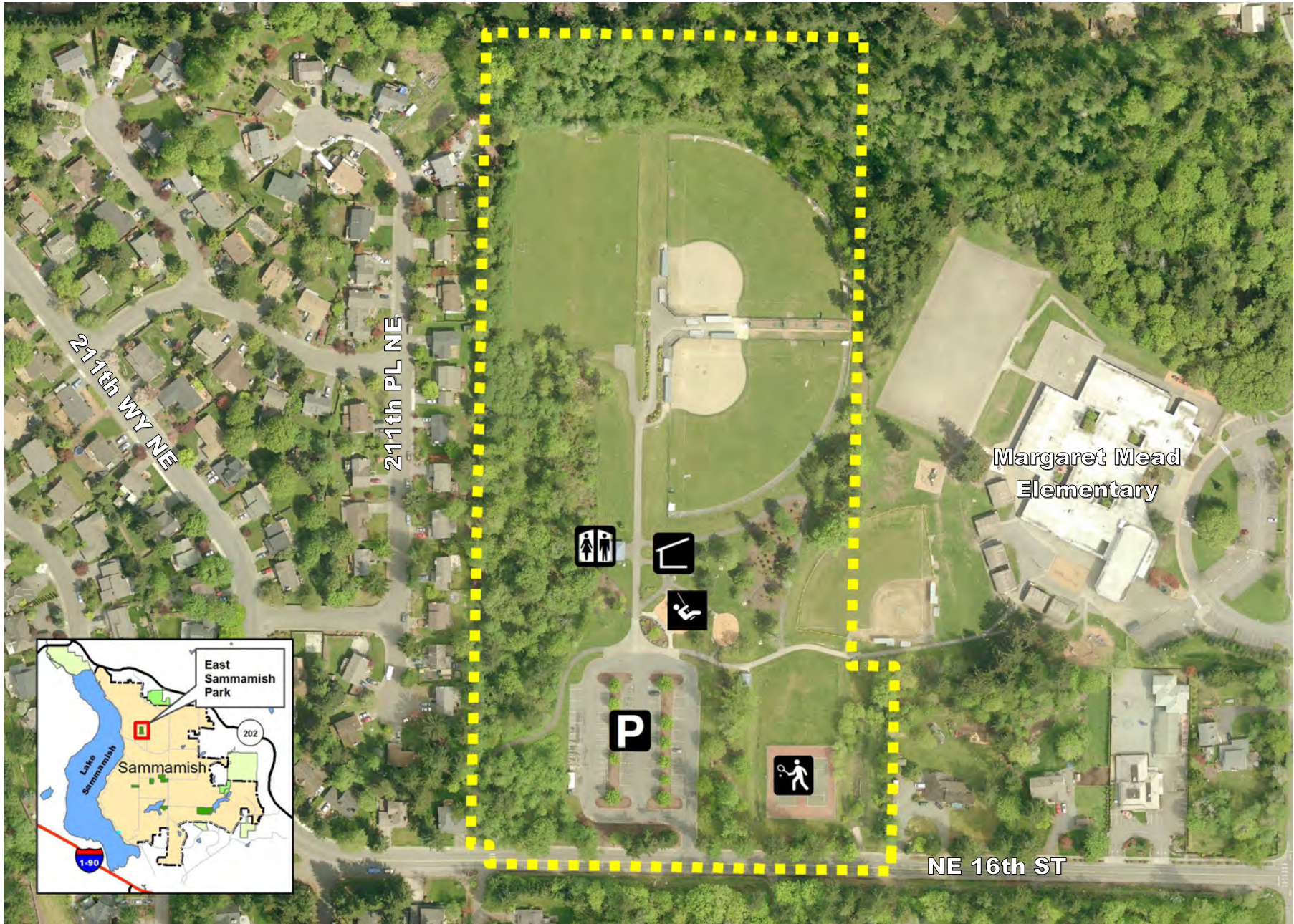
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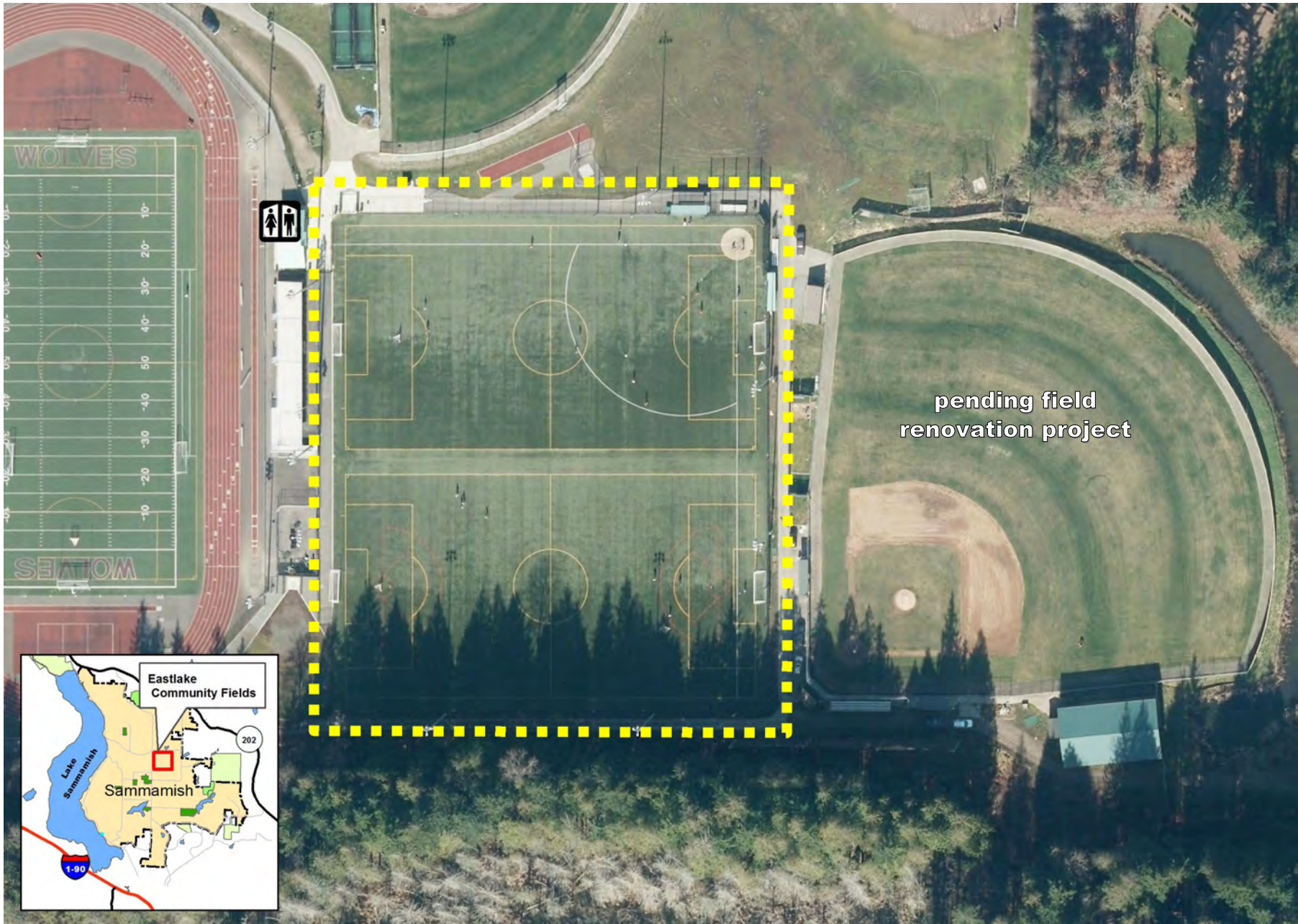




-  Trails
-  Wetland
-  Parking
-  Restroom

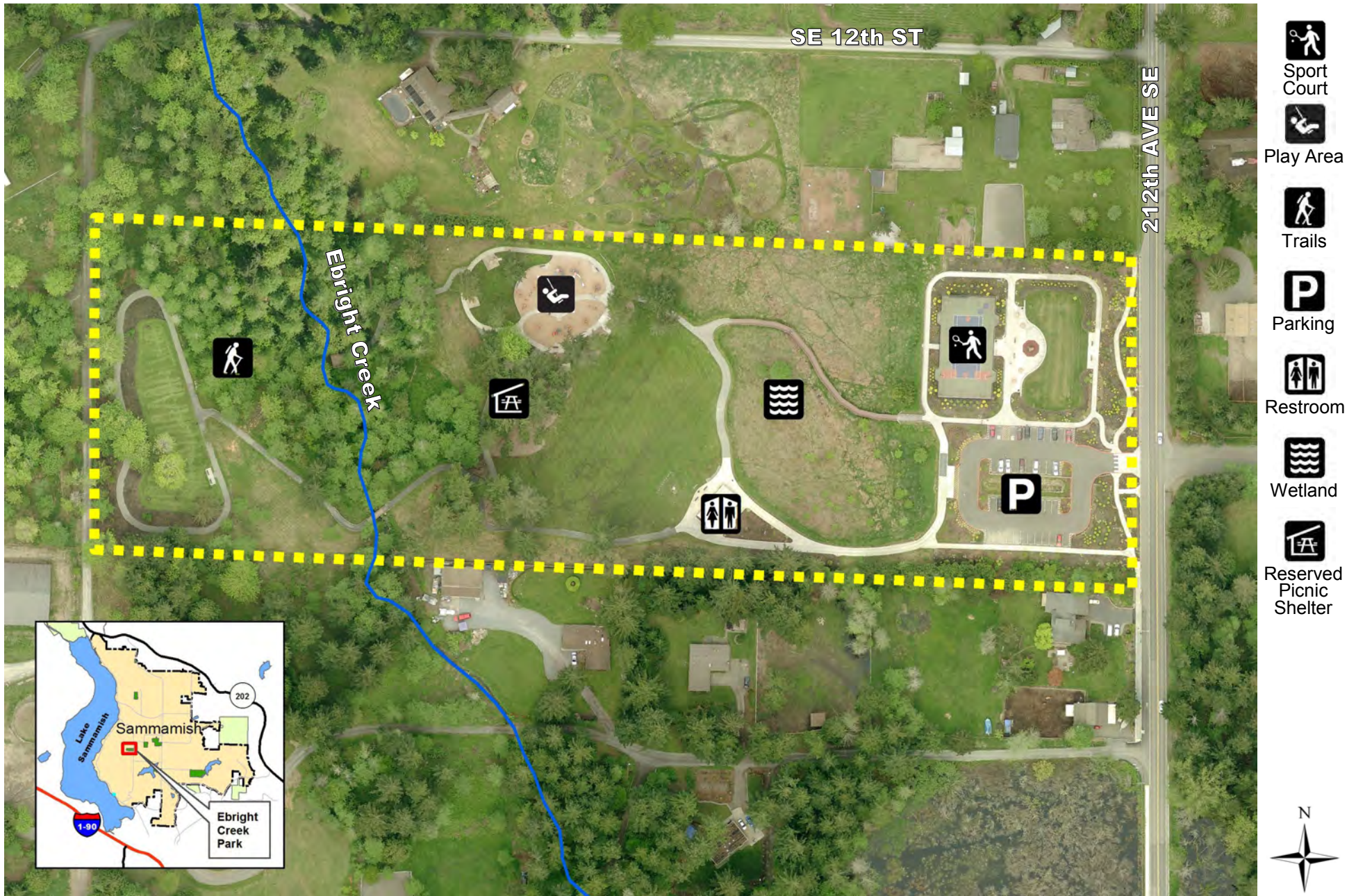


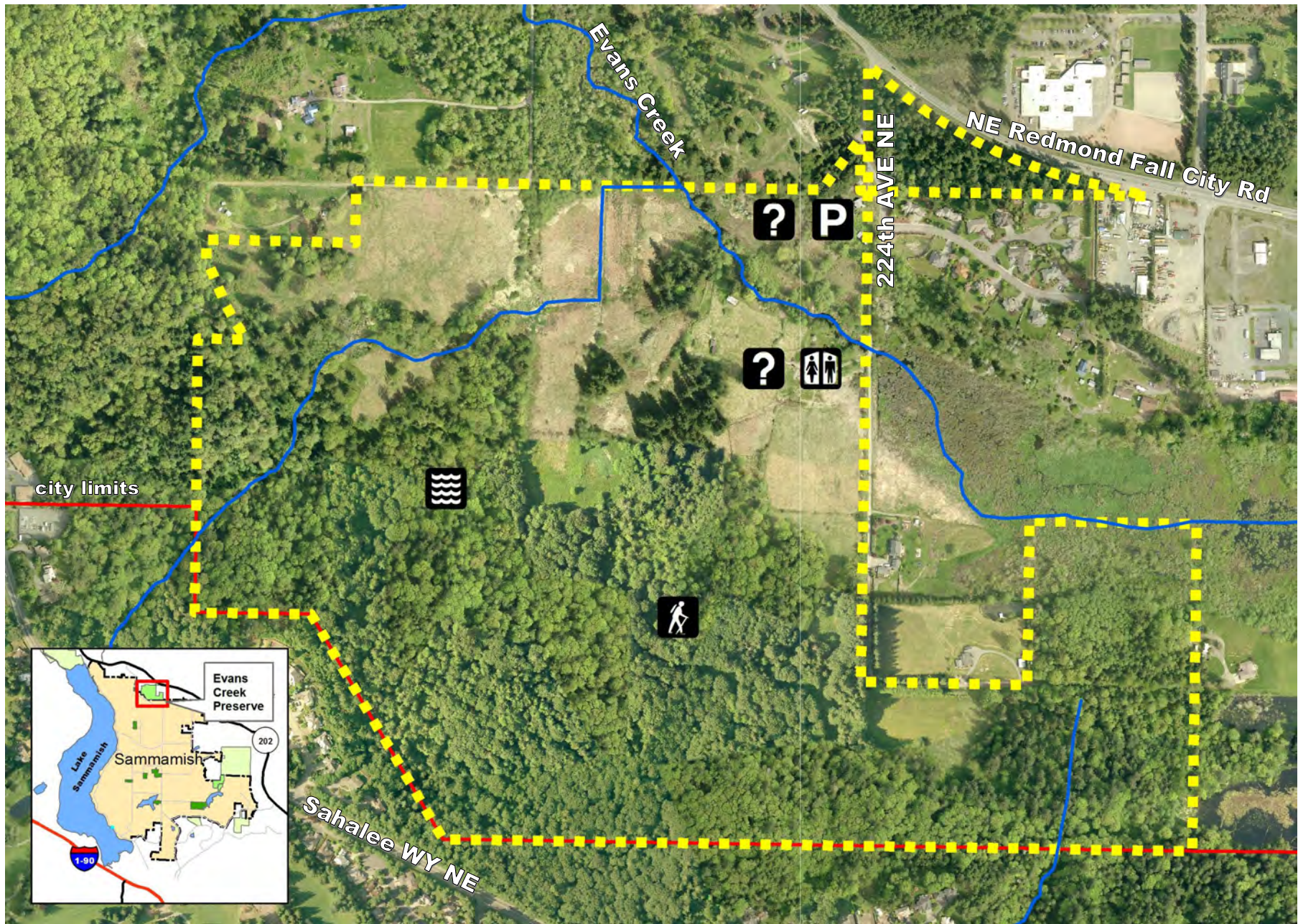




Restroom







Trails



Wetland



Restroom

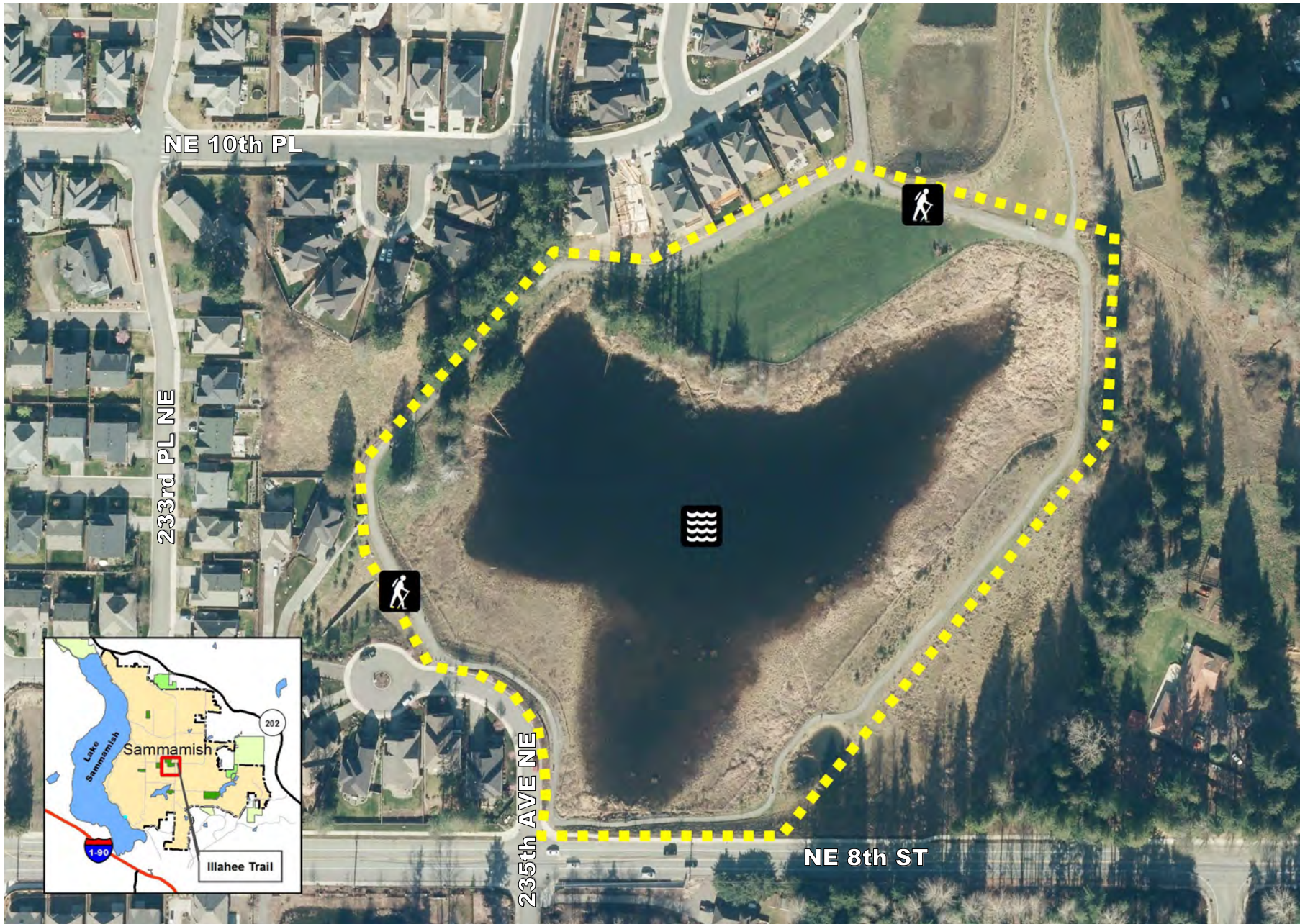


Parking



Information





Trail

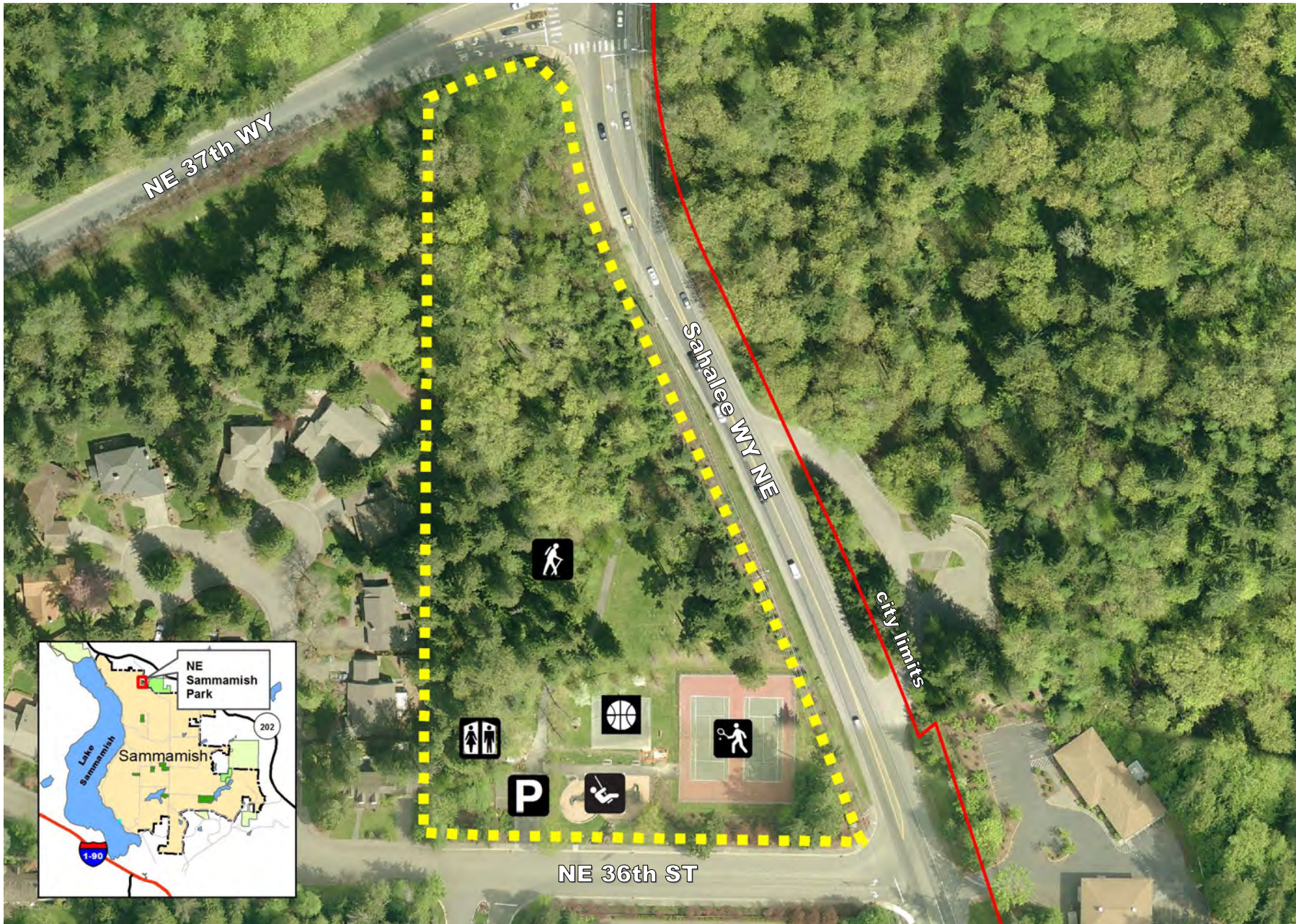


Wetland



Sammamish PRO Plan 2012

ILLAHEE TRAIL



Trail



Play Area



Restroom



Tennis Courts



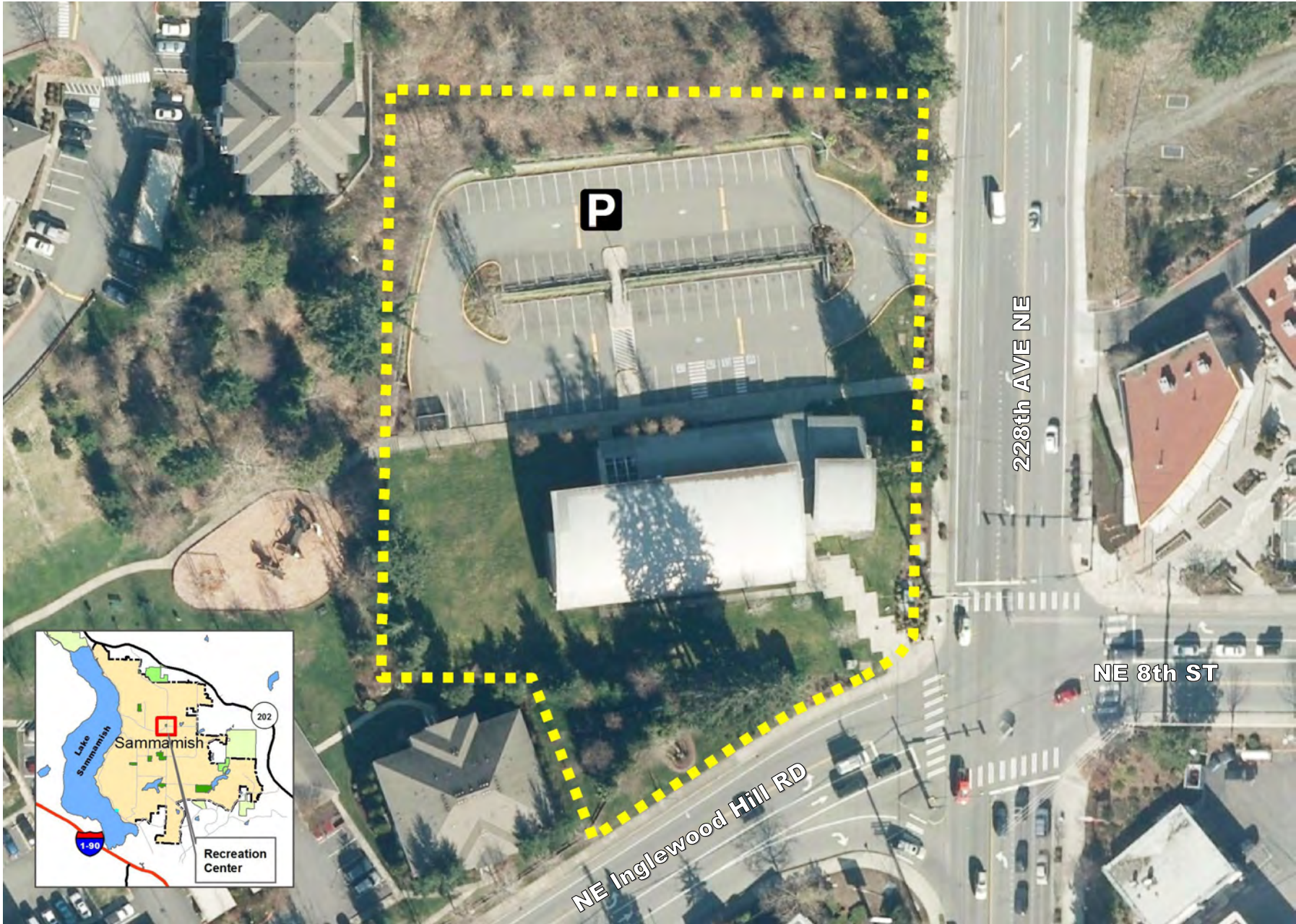
Ball Court



Parking







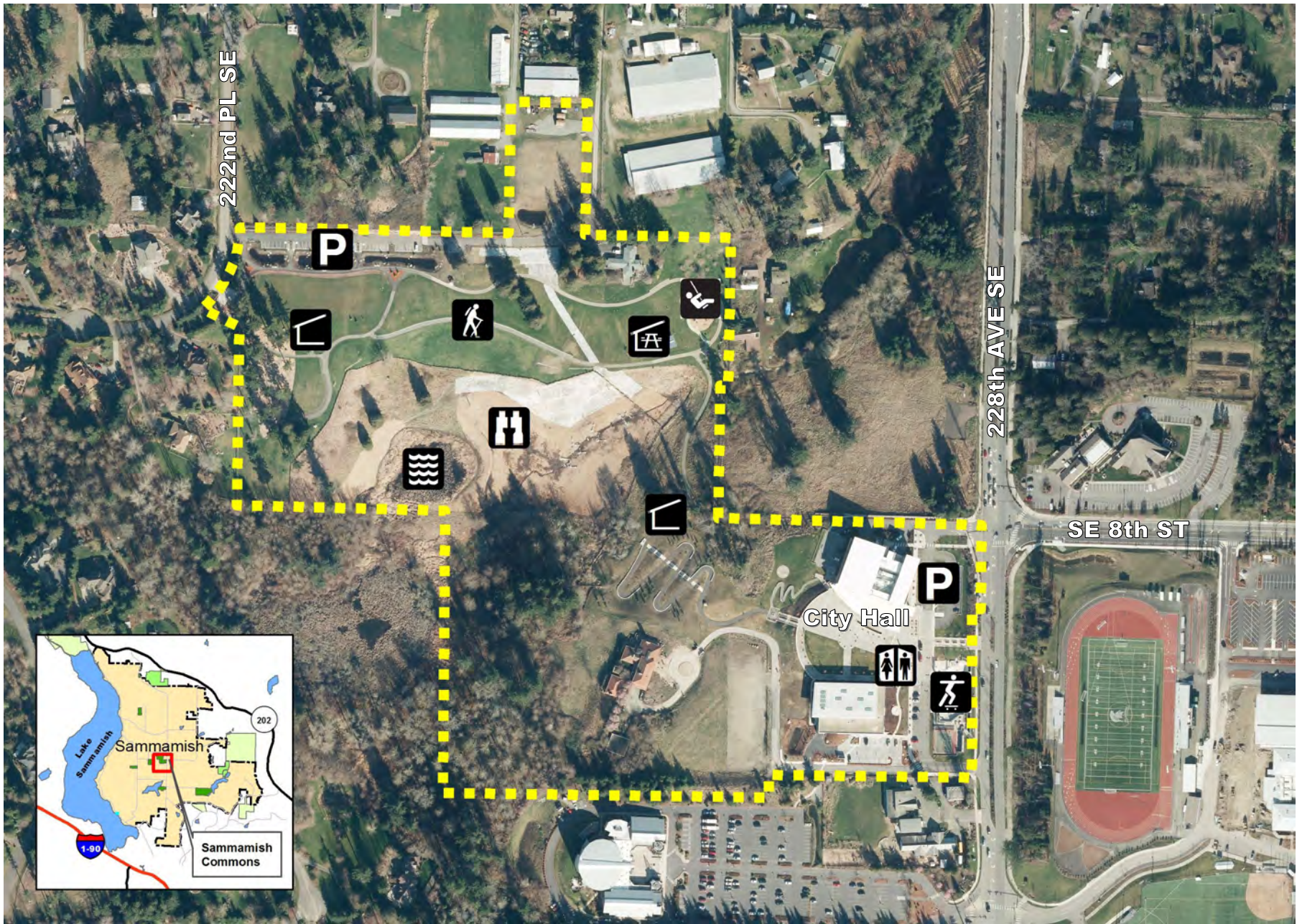
P
Parking

228th AVE NE

NE 8th ST

NE Inglewood Hill RD





Trails



Wetland



Skatepark



Play Area



Parking



Wildlife



Restroom



Picnic Shelter



Reserved Picnic Shelter



N



Sammamish PRO Plan 2012

SAMMAMISH COMMONS



Trails

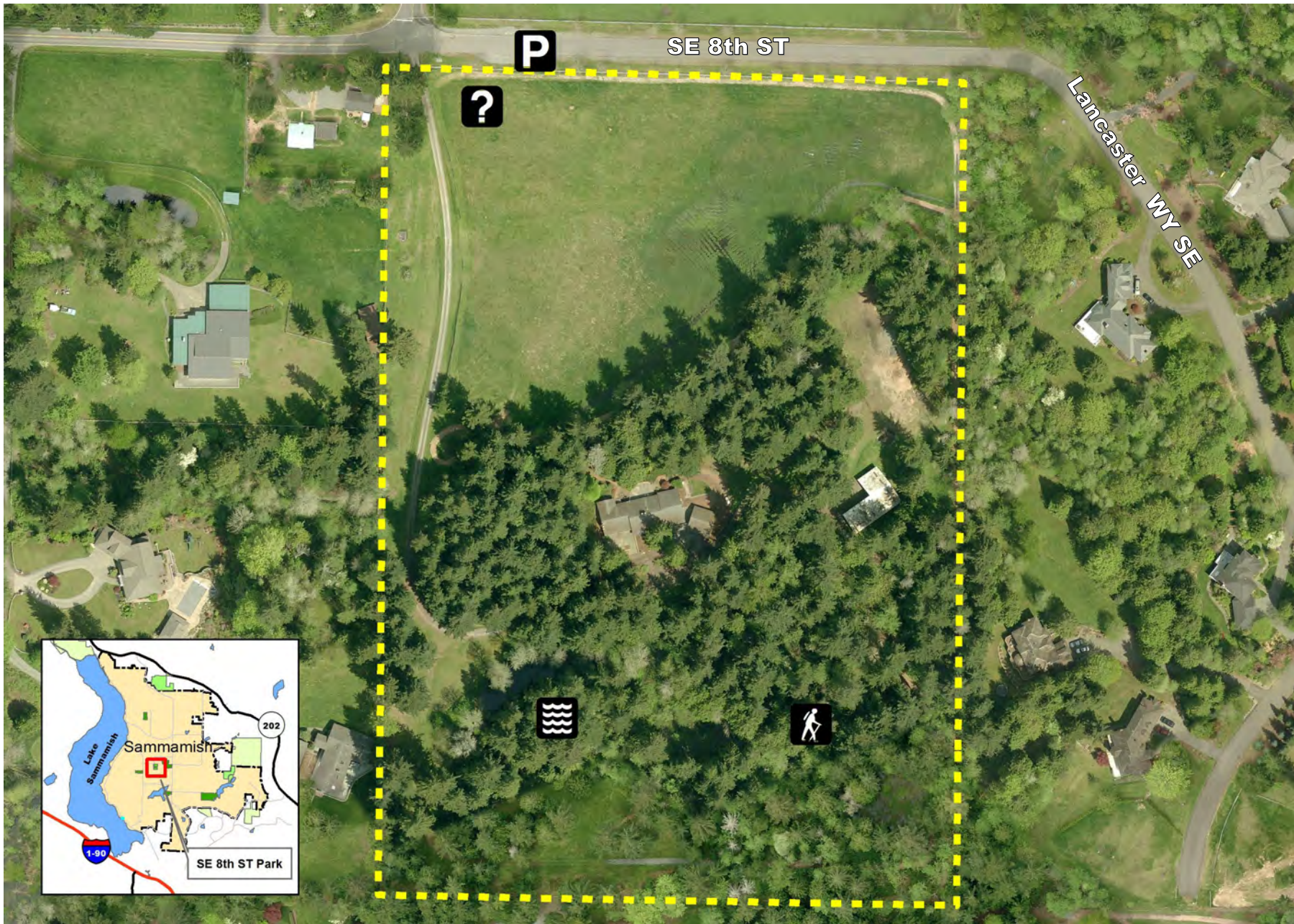


Picnic
Shelter



Sammamish PRO Plan 2012

SAMMAMISH LANDING



Trails



Parking

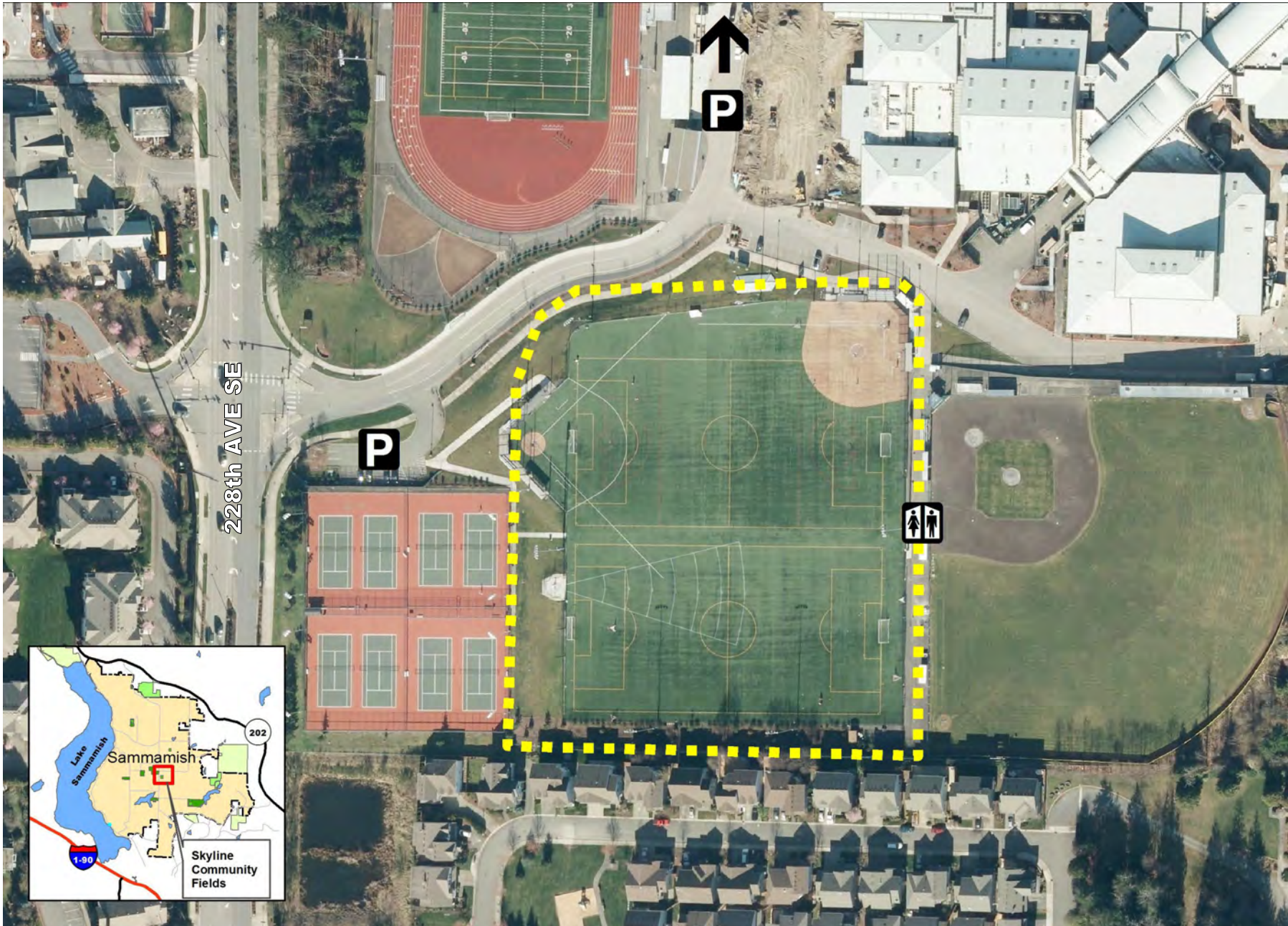


Information



Wetland





Parking

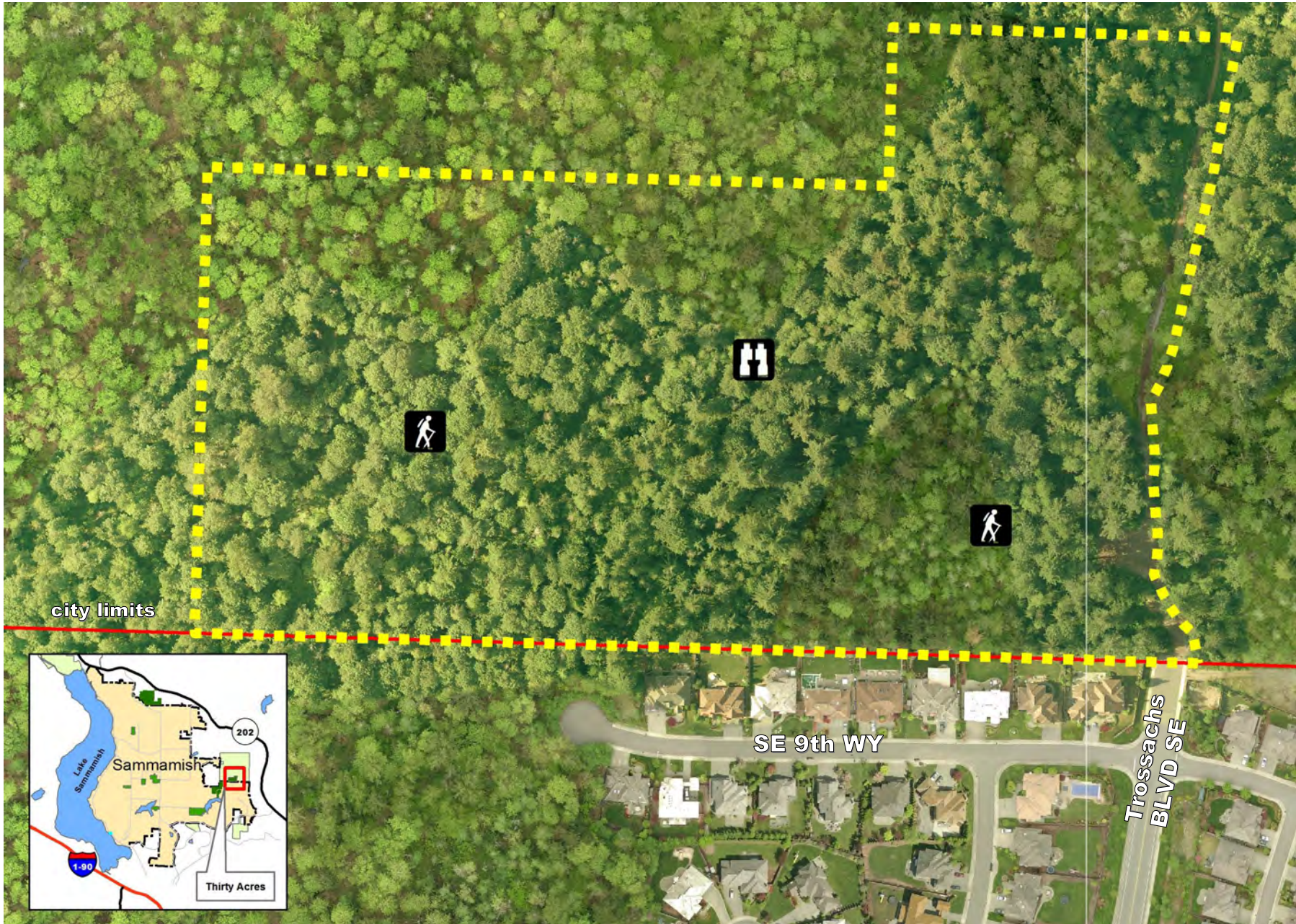


Restroom



Sammamish PRO Plan 2012

SKYLINE COMMUNITY FIELDS



Trails



Wildlife
Viewing



Sammamish PRO Plan 2012

THIRTY ACRES PARK AT SOARING EAGLE



Appendix **D**

Park Level of Service Comparison

	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Natural Resource Area/Open Space	Other
National Recreation & Park Association	1.0 acre per capita	5.0 acres per capita	N/A	
City of Issaquah	N/A	N/A	N/A	Valuation per person at \$4,336.82
City of Kirkland	2.06 acres per capita* *includes public elem. school land calculated at 50% of available open space	2.095 acres per capita* *includes public secondary school land calculated at 100% of available open space	5.70 acres per capita	
City of Mercer Island	1.0 – 2.0 acres per capita	5.0 - 8.0 acres per capita	5.0 - 13.50 acres per capita	Mini park: 0.25 - 0.50 acres per capita Regional park: 5.00 – 10.00 ac/1000 people
City of Redmond**	1.0 acre per capita	3.0 acres per capita	2.50 acres per capita	<u>Private</u> Developer created and HOA controlled
City of Sammamish	N/A	N/A	N/A	Valuation per person at \$1,149.45

**The City of Redmond revised their methodology for calculating level of service as follows:

- Increased their population served by 25 percent to account for the daytime employment population
- Included non-City parks in their analysis by assigning them a value of 50 percent
- Identified a 1/4 mile as level of service standard for walkability
- Implemented a geographic equity standard to ensure park locations are balanced throughout the city
- Implemented level of service standard based on neighborhood populations, not overall population





Appendix **E**

RATE STUDY
FOR
IMPACT FEES
FOR
PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

CITY OF SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON

November 2, 2006

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this study is to establish the rates for impact fees for parks and recreation facilities in the City of Sammamish, Washington.

Rates

The rates for impact fees for park land and recreation facilities are:

<u>Type Dwelling Unit</u>	<u>Impact Fee</u>
Single Family	\$ 2,605.65
Multi-Family	1,505.35
Mobile Home	1,370.82

Impact Fees vs. Other Developer Contributions

Impact fees are charges paid by new development to reimburse local governments for the capital cost of public facilities that are needed to serve new development and the people who occupy the new development. Throughout this study the term "developer" is used as a shorthand expression to describe anyone who is obligated to pay impact fees, including builders, owners or developers.

The impact fees that are described in this study do not include any other forms of developer contributions or exactions, such as mitigation or voluntary payments authorized by SEPA (the State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C), system development charges for water and sewer authorized for utilities (RCW 35.92 for municipalities, 56.16 for sewer districts, and 57.08 for water districts), local improvement districts or other special assessment districts, linkage fees, or land donations or fees in lieu of land.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The impact fees in this study recognize the existence of other sources of revenue that are available to pay for the capital cost of park land and recreation facilities. These other revenues are accounted for by adjusting (i.e., reducing) the cost of capital investment for parks and recreational facilities to account for the portion of costs that are paid by the other sources of revenue and by a revenue credit adjustment for the portion paid by new development

CREDITS FOR OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS BY DEVELOPER

A developer who contributes land, improvements or other assets may receive a "credit" which reduces the amount of impact fee that is due. This credit is in addition to the adjustment for other revenues described in the preceding paragraph.

WHO PAYS IMPACT FEES

Impact fees are paid by new development. Impact fee rates for new development are based on the type of land use: residential, retail, office, commercial, industrial, and other types of new construction. Due to the statutory requirement regarding the relationship between impact fees and the development that pays--and benefits from--the fees, only new residential development (i.e., houses, apartments, condominiums, mobile homes, and other residential construction) is charged impact fees for parks and recreational facilities. Non-residential new development is not charged park and recreational facilities impact fees, as explained in Chapter 1.

SERVICE AREAS FOR IMPACT FEES

Impact fees in some jurisdictions are collected and expended within service areas that are smaller than the jurisdiction that is collecting the fees. Impact fees are not required to use multiple service areas unless such "zones" are necessary to establish the relationship between the fee and the development. Park land and recreation facilities impact fees are collected and expended in a single service area throughout the boundaries of the City of Sammamish because of the compact configuration of the City and the accessibility of its park system to all residences.

USES OF IMPACT FEE REVENUE

Impact fee revenue will be used for the capital cost of public facilities. Impact fees cannot be used for operating or maintenance expenses. The cost of public facilities that can be paid for by impact fees include land acquisition, site improvements, construction, capital equipment pertaining to park land and recreation facilities, necessary off-site improvements, park and facilities planning, design, and engineering, permitting, financing, and administrative expenses, and applicable impact fees or mitigation costs.

The public facilities that can be paid for by impact fees are "system improvements" (which are typically outside the development "and designed to provide service to service areas within the community at large" as provided in RCW 82.02.050(9)), as opposed to "project improvements" (which are typically provided by the developer on-site within the development or adjacent to the development "and designed to provide service for a particular development project and that are necessary for the use and convenience of the occupants or users of the project" as provided in RCW 82.02.050(6)).

EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPACT FEES

Impact fees must be spent on capital projects contained in an adopted capital facilities plan, or they can be used to reimburse the government for the unused capacity of existing facilities. Impact fee payments that are not expended within 6 years must be refunded. In order to verify these two requirements, impact fee revenues must be deposited into separate accounts of the government, and annual reports must describe revenue and expenditures.

DEVELOPER OPTIONS

Developers who are liable for impact fees can submit data and/or analysis to demonstrate that the impacts of the proposed development are less than the impacts calculated in this rate study. Developers can pay impact fees under protest and appeal impact fee calculations. Developers can obtain a refund of the impact fees if the local government fails to expend the impact fee payments within 6 years, or terminates the impact fee requirement, or the developer does not proceed with the development (and creates no impacts).

Organization of the Study

- Chapter 1 Summarizes the statutory basis for developing impact fees, discusses issues, and presents the methodology and formulas for determining the amount of the impact fee.
 - Chapter 2 Describes and documents the level of service standard for the parks and recreational facilities which is measured by the amount of capital investment per person.
 - Chapter 3 Documents the value of parks and recreational facilities that are needed to serve growth that is forecast in Sammamish, net of any existing reserves and/or any City investment in parks and recreational facilities.
 - Chapter 4 Documents the growth cost per person, calculates the cost per dwelling unit, calculates the revenue credit adjustment per dwelling unit, and impact fee per dwelling unit.
- Appendix A documents the need for park land and recreational facilities using categories specified in RCW 82.02.050(4).

1. Statutory Basis and Methodology

Local governments charge impact fees for several reasons: 1) to obtain revenue to pay for some of the cost of new public facilities; 2) to implement a public policy that new development should pay a portion of the cost of facilities that it requires, and that existing development should not pay all of the cost of such facilities; and 3) to assure that adequate public facilities will be constructed to serve new development.

This study of impact fees for park land and recreation facilities for Sammamish, Washington describes the methodology that is used to develop the fees, presents the formulas, variables and data that are the basis for the fees, and documents the calculation of the fees. The methodology is designed to comply with the requirements of Washington State Law.

Definition and Rationale of Impact Fees

Impact fees are charges paid by new development to reimburse local governments for the capital cost of public facilities that are needed to serve new development and the people who occupy the new development. New development is synonymous with “growth.”

Local governments charge impact fees on either of two bases. First, as a matter of policy and legislative discretion, they may want new development to pay the cost of its share of new public facilities because that portion of the facilities would not be needed except to serve the new development. In this case, the new development is required to pay for the cost of its share of new public facilities, subject to the limitations of RCW 82.02.050 et seq.

On the other hand, local governments may use other sources of revenue to pay for the new public facilities that are required to serve new development. If, however, such revenues are not sufficient to cover the entire costs of new facilities necessitated by new development, the new development may be required to pay an impact fee in an amount equal to the difference between the total cost and the other sources of revenue.

There are many kinds of "public facilities" that are needed by new development, including parks and recreational facilities, streets and roads, water and sewer plants, fire protection facilities, schools, libraries, and other government facilities. This study covers parks and recreation facilities in the City of Sammamish, Washington. Impact fees for parks and recreation facilities are charged to all residential development within the City of Sammamish.

Statutory Basis for Impact Fees

The Growth Management Act of 1990 (Chapter 17, Washington Laws, 1990, 1st Ex. Sess.) authorizes local governments in Washington to charge impact fees. RCW 82.02.050 - 82.02.090 contain the provisions of the Growth Management Act which authorize and describe the requirements for impact fees.

The impact fees that are described in this study are not mitigation payments authorized by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). There are several important differences between impact fees and SEPA mitigations. Two aspects of impact fees that are particularly noteworthy are: 1) the ability to charge for the cost of public facilities that are "system improvements" (i.e., that provide service to the community at large) as opposed to "project improvements" (which are "on-site" and provide service for a particular development), and 2) the ability to charge small-scale development their proportionate share, whereas SEPA exempts small developments.

The following synopsis of the most significant requirements of the law includes citations to the Revised Code of Washington as an aid to readers who wish to review the exact language of the statutes.

TYPES OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

Four types of public facilities can be the subject of impact fees: 1) public streets and roads; 2) publicly owned parks, open space and recreation facilities; 3) school facilities; and 4) fire protection facilities (in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district). *RCW 82.02.050(2) and (4), and RCW 82.02.090(7)*

TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS

Impact fees can be spent on "system improvements" (which are typically outside the development), as opposed to "project improvements" (which are typically provided by the developer on-site within the development). *RCW 82.02.050(3)(a) and RCW 82.02.090(6) and (9)*

BENEFIT TO DEVELOPMENT

Impact fees must be limited to system improvements that are reasonably related to, and which will benefit new development. *RCW 82.02.050(3)(a) and (c)*. Local governments must establish reasonable service areas (one area, or more than one, as determined to be reasonable by the local government), and local governments must develop impact fee rate categories for various land uses. *RCW 82.02.060(6)*

PROPORTIONATE SHARE

Impact fees cannot exceed the development's proportionate share of system improvements that are reasonably related to the new development. The impact fee amount shall be based on a formula (or other method of calculating the fee) that determines the proportionate share. *RCW 82.02.050(3)(b) and RCW 82.02.060(1)*

REDUCTIONS OF IMPACT FEE AMOUNTS

Impact fees rates must be adjusted to account for other revenues that the development pays (if such payments are earmarked for or proratable to particular system improvements). *RCW 82.02.050(1)(c) and (2) and RCW 82.02.060(1)(b)* Impact fees may be credited for the value of dedicated land, improvements or construction provided by the developer (if such facilities are in the adopted CFP and are required as a condition of development approval). *RCW 82.02.060(3)*

EXEMPTIONS FROM IMPACT FEES

Local governments have the discretion to provide exemptions from impact fees for low-income housing and other "broad public purpose" development, but all such exemptions must be paid from public funds (other than impact fee accounts). *RCW 82.02.060(2)*

DEVELOPER OPTIONS

Developers who are liable for impact fees can submit data and or/analysis to demonstrate that the impacts of the proposed development are less than the impacts calculated in this rate study. *RCW 82.02.060(5)*. Developers can pay impact fees under protest and appeal impact fee calculations. *RCW 82.02.060(4) and RCW 82.02.070(4) and (5)*. The developer can obtain a refund of the impact fees if the local government fails to expend the impact fee payments within 6 years, or terminates the impact fee requirement, or the developer does not proceed with the development (and creates no impacts). *RCW 82.02.080*

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANS

Impact fees must be expended on public facilities in a capital facilities plan (CFP) element (or used to reimburse the government for the unused capacity of existing facilities). The CFP must conform with the Growth Management Act of 1990, and must identify existing deficiencies in facility capacity for current development, capacity of existing facilities available for new development, and additional facility capacity needed for new development. *RCW 82.02.050(4), RCW 82.02.060(7), and RCW 82.02.070(2)*

NEW VERSUS EXISTING FACILITIES

Impact fees can be charged for new public facilities (*RCW 82.02.060(1)(a)*) and for the unused capacity of existing public facilities (*RCW 82.02.060(7)*) subject to the proportionate share limitation described above.

ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

The local government must separate the impact fees from other monies, expend the money on CFP projects within 6 years, and prepare annual reports of collections and expenditures. *RCW 82.02.070(1)-(3)*

Issues Relating to Impact Fees

Prior to calculating impact fee rates, several issues will be addressed in order to determine the need for, and validity of such fees: responsibility for public facilities, the need for additional park land and recreation facilities, the need for new revenue for additional park land and recreation facilities, and the benefit of new park land and recreation facilities to new development.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

In general, local governments that are authorized to charge impact fees are responsible for specific public facilities for which they may charge such fees. The City of Sammamish is legally and financially responsible for the parks and recreation facilities it owns and operates within its jurisdiction.

In no case may a local government charge impact fees for private facilities, but it may charge impact fees for some public facilities that it does not administer if such facilities are "owned or operated by government entities" (*RCW 82.02.090 (7)*). Thus, a city or county may charge impact fees for parks and recreation facilities, and enter into an agreement with school districts for the transfer, expenditure, and reporting of parks impact fees for parks and recreational facilities at school sites.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The need for additional park land and recreation facilities is determined by using standards for levels of service for park land and recreation facilities to calculate the quantity of facilities that are required. The required quantity is then compared to the existing inventory to determine the need for additional land and facilities. The analysis of needed park land and recreation facilities must comply with the statutory requirements of identifying existing deficiency, reserve capacity and new capacity requirements for facilities. An analysis of the need for additional park land and recreation facilities is presented in Appendix A.

NEED FOR NEW REVENUE FOR ADDITIONAL PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The need for new revenue for park land and recreation facilities is demonstrated by comparing the cost of new facilities for the next 6 years to other revenue forecast for the same 6 years, including grants and local taxes. Chapter 3 includes an analysis of the other sources of revenue the City has to pay needed park land and recreation facilities costs without impact fees.

DETERMINING THE BENEFIT TO DEVELOPMENT

The law imposes three tests of the benefit provided to development by impact fees: 1) proportionate share, 2) reasonably related to need, and 3) reasonably related to expenditure (*RCW 80.20.050(3)*).

1. Proportionate Share.

First, the "proportionate share" requirement means that impact fees can be charged only for the portion of the cost of public facilities that is "reasonably related" to new development. In other words, impact fees cannot be charged to pay for the cost of reducing or eliminating deficiencies in existing facilities.

Second, there are several important implications of the proportionate share requirement that are not specifically addressed in the law, but which follow directly from the law:

- Costs of facilities that will be used by new development and existing users must be apportioned between the two groups in determining the amount of the fee. This can be accomplished in either of two ways: (1) by allocating the cost between new and existing users, or (2) calculating the cost per unit (i.e., acre of park land, etc.), and applying the cost only to new development when calculating impact fees.
- Impact fees that recover the costs of existing unused capacity should be based on the government's actual cost, or the replacement cost of the facility in order to account for carrying costs of the government's actual or imputed interest expense.

The third aspect of the proportionate share requirement is its relationship to the requirement to provide adjustments and credits to impact fees, where appropriate. These requirements ensure that the amount of the impact fee does not exceed the proportionate share.

- The "adjustments" requirement reduces the impact fee to account for past and future payments of other revenues (if such payments are earmarked

for or proratable to the system improvements that are needed to serve new growth).

- The "credit" requirement reduces impact fees by the value of dedicated land, improvements or construction provided by the developer (if such facilities are in the adopted CFP and are required as a condition of development approval). The law does not prohibit a local government from establishing reasonable constraints on determining credits. For example, the location of dedicated land and the quality and design of a donated public facility can be required to conform to local standards for such facilities.

Without such adjustments and credits, the fee-paying development might pay more than its proportionate share.

2. Reasonably Related to Need.

There are many ways to fulfill the requirement that impact fees be "reasonably related" to the development's need for public facilities, including personal use and use by others in the family or business enterprise (direct benefit), use by persons or organizations who provide goods or services to the fee-paying property (indirect benefit), and geographical proximity (presumed benefit). These measures of relatedness are implemented by the following techniques:

- Impact fees for park land and recreation facilities are charged to properties which need (i.e., benefit from) new park land and recreation facilities. Park land and recreation facilities are provided by the City of Sammamish to all kinds of property throughout the City regardless of the type of use of the property. Impact fees for park land and recreation facilities, however, are only charged to residential development in the City, because the dominant stream of benefits redounds to the occupants and owners of dwelling units. As a matter of policy, the City of Sammamish elects not to charge park impact fees to non-residential properties because there is insufficient data to document the proportionate share of parks and recreational facilities reasonably needed by non-residential development.
- The relative needs of different types of growth are considered in establishing fee amounts (i.e., single family dwelling units versus multi family dwelling units, etc.).

- FeePAYERS can pay a smaller fee if they demonstrate that their development will have less impact than is presumed in the calculation of the impact fee schedule for their property classification. Such reduced needs must be permanent and enforceable (i.e., through land use restrictions).
- RCW requires one or more service areas as a way of connecting a unit of development and a parks and recreation facility. All impact fees paid by new development in the service area would be required to be spent on new parks and recreation facilities in the same service area. Sammamish parks and recreation facilities serve the entire City, therefore the impact fees for these parks and recreational facilities are based on a single district.

3. Reasonably Related to Expenditures.

Two provisions of the law tend to reinforce the requirement that expenditures be "reasonably related" to the development that paid the impact fee. First, the requirement that fee revenue must be earmarked for specific uses related to public facilities ensures that expenditures are on identifiable projects, the benefit of which can be demonstrated. Second, impact fee revenue must be expended within 6 years, thus requiring a timeliness to the benefit to the fee-payer.

Methodology and Relationship to Capital Facilities Plan

Impact fees for parks and recreation facilities in the City of Sammamish are based on the value per capita of the City's existing investment in parks and recreational facilities for the current population of the City. New development will be provided the same investment per capita, to be funded by a combination of grant revenue, local taxes, and impact fees. The amount of the impact fee is determined by charging each new development for the average number of persons per dwelling unit multiplied times the amount of the investment per capita that is to be paid by growth.

The investment for future population is made through park projects listed in the City's Capital Facilities Plan. The total value of the projects in the current CFP exceeds the amount needed to sustain the investment per capita standard, therefore (1) the standard is a reasonable, and conservative, basis for the impact fee, and (2) the investment in excess of the standard will raise the standard for all residents (which can be adjusted in future updates of the impact fee rates).

Calculation of Impact Fee Amounts

Seven formulas are used to determine the amount of impact fees for parks and recreational facilities that are required as a result of new development:

1. Park and Recreation Capital Investment Per Person

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Value of Parks \& Recreation Inventory} & \div & \text{Current Population} & = & \text{Capital Investment Per Person} \end{array}$$

2. Value Needed for Growth

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Capital Investment per Person} & \times & \text{Forecast Population Growth} & = & \text{Value Needed for Growth} \end{array}$$

3. Investment Needed for Growth

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Value Needed for Growth} & - & \text{Value of Existing Reserve Capacity} & = & \text{Investment Needed for Growth} \end{array}$$

4. Investment to be Paid by Growth

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Investment Needed for Growth} & - & \text{City Investment for Growth} & = & \text{Investment to be Paid by Growth} \end{array}$$

5. Growth Cost Per Person

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Investment to be Paid by Growth} & \div & \text{Growth Population} & = & \text{Growth Cost per Person} \end{array}$$

6. Cost Per Dwelling Unit

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Growth Cost Per Person} & \times & \text{Average Persons per Dwelling Unit} & = & \text{Cost Per Dwelling Unit} \end{array}$$

7. Impact Fee Per Dwelling Unit

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Cost} & & \text{Revenue Credit} & & \text{Impact Fee} \\ \text{Per} & - & \text{Adjustment per} & = & \text{Per} \\ \text{Dwelling Unit} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} \end{array}$$

Data Sources and Calculation

DATA SOURCES

The data in this study of impact fees for parks and recreation facilities in the City of Sammamish, Washington was provided by the City of Sammamish unless a different source is specifically cited.

DATA ROUNDING

The data in this study was prepared using computer spreadsheet software. In some tables in this study, there will be very small variations from the results that would be obtained using a calculator to compute the same data. The reason for these insignificant differences is that the spreadsheet software was allowed to calculate results to more places after the decimal than is reported in the tables of these reports. The calculation to extra places after the decimal increases the accuracy of the end results, but causes occasional differences due to rounding of data that appears in this study.

2. Level of Service Standard

This chapter includes a description of the first formula and each variable that is used in the formula, an explanation of the use of data in the formulas, and the calculation of the level of service standard for park land and recreational facilities, using formula 1.

FORMULA 1: Park and Recreation Capital Investment Per Person

The capital investment per person is calculated by multiplying the capacity of parks and recreational facilities times the average costs of those items.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Value of Parks \&} & & \text{Current} & & \text{Capital} \\ \text{Recreation} & \div & \text{Population} & = & \text{Investment} \\ \text{Inventory} & & & & \text{Per Person} \end{array}$$

There is one variable that requires explanation: (A) value of parks and recreation inventory

VARIABLE (A): VALUE OF PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

The value of the existing inventory of parks and recreation facilities is calculated by determining the value of each park as well as the facilities within the park. The sum of all of the values equals the current value of the City's parks and recreation system. Any park and recreation facility that is not complete or operational but for which the City has committed funding towards is also included in the 'current' value.

The costs in this study come from a variety of information, depending on the status of the park or recreation facility. Most of the valuations of the current inventory of park land and recreation facilities are from the City's fixed asset inventory. Actual costs were used for recent acquisitions and construction. King County's assessed valuation was used for one park for which no value appeared in the fixed asset inventory.

The cost of each new park includes land, design, landscaping, site improvements, some recreational facilities (e.g., equipment or apparatus not separately listed in this study), and legal and administrative costs (which includes contingency). The cost of recreational facilities includes design, site preparation, construction, and legal and administrative costs (which includes contingency). The cost of facilities does not include land if the facilities are customarily located at a park. If the facility is usually located at any site other than a park, the cost includes land.

The cost of new parks and recreation facilities in this rate study does not include any costs for interest or other financing. If borrowing is used to “front fund” the costs that will be paid by impact fees, the carrying costs for financing can be added to the costs, and the impact fee can be recalculated to include such costs.

CALCULATION OF PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT PER PERSON

Table 1 lists the inventory of park land and facilities that make up the existing City of Sammamish park system. Each park, including its size (acres) is listed along with the inventory of recreation facilities at each park site. The value of the park land and facilities is shown in Column 4. The total value for the current existing inventory of park land and facilities of \$45,667,590 is divided by the current (April 2006) population of 39,730 to calculate an inventory value of \$1,149.45 per person.

Table 1: Level of Service Standard

(1) Park	(2) Acres and Facilities	(3) Value
Beaver Lake Park	83 Acres Lodge Maintenance Shop Baseball Field (3) Restroom Play Area Picnic Shelter (Lake) Picnic Shelter (Fields)	\$ 16,956,150
Beaver Creek Preserve	57 Acres	3,248,438
Bill Reams/ESP	19 Acres Restroom Tennis Court (2) Baseball Field (2) Soccer Field (1) Play Area (1) Picnic Shelter Batting Cages (2)	1,244,040
Community Sports Fields at Eastlake and Skyline High Schools	Lighting Synthetic turf Multi-use sports facility Soccer fields (2) Baseball field (1)	5,246,976

(1) Park	(2) Acres and Facilities	(3) Value
Ebright Creek Park	12 Acres Playfield (1) Play Area Sports Court Picnic Shelter Restroom Climbing Boulder Boardwalk Trail	5,230,000
Evans Creek Preserve	175 Acres	1,500,000
NE Sammamish Park	5 Acres Tennis Courts (2) Basketball Court (half) Play Area	337,550
Pine Lake Park	16 Acres Restroom/Bathhouse Dock Picnic Shelter Baseball/Soccer Field Basketball Court (full) Play Areas (4)	3,430,850
Sammamish Commons	27 Acres Playfield Civic Plaza Skatepark Basketball Court Climbing Wall Restroom Play Area	6,884,586
Waterfront Park Property	4 Acres	1,593,000
Total Value		\$ 45,667,590
April 2006 Population		39,730
Value per Capita		\$ 1,149.45

The City of Sammamish standard is \$1,149.45 per person of capital investment in park land and recreational facilities. This standard maintains the City's flexibility to develop parks and recreational facilities that are most appropriate for each site and to respond to changing needs and priorities, such as skateboard parks and climbing walls that did not exist at public parks until a few years ago.

3. Park and Recreational Facility Needs

This chapter calculates the value of parks and recreational facilities that are needed to serve growth, reduced by the value of existing reserves and future investments the City will make in parks and recreational facilities that serve growth.

As in the previous chapter, this chapter includes a description of formulas and each variable that is used in the formulas, an explanation of the use of data in each formula, and the calculations that result from using formulas 2 - 4.

FORMULA 2: Value Needed for Growth

Impact fees must be related to the needs of growth, as explained in Chapter 1. The first step in determining growth's needs is to calculate the total value of parks and recreational facilities that are needed for growth. The calculation is accomplished by multiplying the investment per person (from Table 1) times the number of new persons that are forecast for the City's growth.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Capital} & & \text{Forecast} & & \text{Value} \\ \text{Investment} & \times & \text{Population} & = & \text{Needed} \\ \text{per Person} & & \text{Growth} & & \text{for Growth} \end{array}$$

There is one new variable used in formula 2 that requires explanation: (B) forecasts of future population growth.

VARIABLE (B): FORECAST POPULATION GROWTH

As part of the City of Sammamish long-range planning process, including its Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the Growth Management Act, the City prepares forecasts of future growth. The City expects 2,402 additional single family homes with an average of 3.02 persons per dwelling unit. This will bring 7,254 additional people to Sammamish. In addition, the City expects 285 multi-family dwelling units, such as apartments or condominiums, each of which will average 1.74 person per dwelling unit. These multi-family units will bring an additional 496 people to Sammamish. The combined total of additional population in single family and multi-family dwellings is 7,750 people.

CALCULATION OF VALUE NEEDED FOR GROWTH

Table 2 shows the calculation of the value of parks and recreational facilities needed for growth. Column 1 lists the level of service standard for capital investment per person from Table 1, Column 2 shows the growth in population that is forecast, and Column 3 is the total value of parks and recreational facilities that

is needed to serve the growth that is forecast for Sammamish.

Table 2: Value of Parks and Recreational Facilities Needed for Growth

(1) Capital Investment per Person	(2) Forecast Population Growth	(3) Value Needed for Growth
\$ 1,149.45	7,750	\$ 8,908,157

Table 2 shows that Sammamish needs parks and recreational facilities valued at \$8,908,157 in order to serve the growth of 7,750 additional people who are expected to be added to the City's existing population. The future investment needed for growth will be \$8,908,157 unless the City has existing reserve capacity in its parks and recreational facilities.

FORMULA 3. Investment Needed for Growth

The investment needed for growth is calculated by subtracting the value of any existing reserve capacity from the total value of parks and recreational facilities needed to serve the growth.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Value} & & \text{Value of} & & \text{Investment} \\ \text{Needed} & - & \text{Existing} & = & \text{Needed} \\ \text{for Growth} & & \text{Reserve} & & \text{for Growth} \\ & & \text{Capacity} & & \end{array}$$

There is one new variable used in formula 3 that requires explanation: (C) value of existing reserve capacity of parks and recreational facilities.

VARIABLE (C): VALUE OF EXISTING RESERVE CAPACITY

The value of reserve capacity is the difference between the value of the City's existing inventory of parks and recreational facilities, and the value of those assets that are needed to provide the level of service standard for the existing population. The value of the reserve capacity is detailed in Appendix A.

CALCULATION OF INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR GROWTH

Table 3 shows the calculation of the investment in parks and recreational facilities that is needed for growth. Column 1 lists the value of parks and recreational facilities needed to serve growth (from Table 2), Column 2 shows the value of

existing reserve capacity (from Appendix A), and Column 3 is the remaining investment in parks and recreational facilities that is needed to serve the growth.

Table 3: Investment Needed in Parks and Recreational Facilities for Growth

(1)	(2)	(3)
Value Needed for Growth	Value of Existing Reserve Capacity	Investment Needed for Growth
\$ 8,908,157	\$ 0	\$ 8,908,157

Table 3 shows that Sammamish needs to invest \$8,908,157 in additional parks and recreational facilities in order to serve future growth. The future investment in parks and recreational facilities that needs to be paid by growth may be less than \$8,908,157 if the City has other revenues it invests in its parks and recreational facilities.

FORMULA 4. Investment to be Paid by Growth

The investment to be paid by growth is calculated by subtracting the amount of any revenues the City invests in infrastructure for growth from the total investment in parks and recreational facilities needed to serve growth.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Investment} & & \text{City} & & \text{Investment} \\ \text{Needed} & - & \text{Investment} & = & \text{to be Paid} \\ \text{for Growth} & & \text{for Growth} & & \text{by Growth} \end{array}$$

There is one new variable used in formula 4 that requires explanation: (D) revenues used to fund the City's investment in projects that serve growth.

VARIABLE (D): CITY INVESTMENT OF NON-IMPACT FEE REVENUES

The City of Sammamish has historically used a combination of state grants and local revenues to pay for the cost of park and recreational capital facilities. The City's plan for the future is to continue using grant revenue and some local revenues to pay part of the cost of parks and recreational facilities needed for growth.

The City estimates that it will receive approximately \$1.8 million in grants for parks and recreational facilities during the next 6 years. In addition, the City plans to spend the same percent of local revenue on parks for growth as it spends on streets for growth. The planned percentage is 3.23%, which is \$287,733. The

combined total of the local revenue and grants is \$2,087,733.

Revenues that are used for repair, maintenance or operating costs are not used to reduce impact fees because they are not used, earmarked or prorated for the system improvements that are the basis of the impact fees. Revenues from past taxes paid on vacant land prior to development are not included because new capital projects do not have prior costs, therefore prior taxes did not contribute to such projects.

The other potential credit that reduces capacity costs (and subsequent impact fees) are donations of land or other assets by developers or builders. Those reductions depend upon specific arrangements between the developer and the City of Sammamish. Reductions in impact fees for donations are calculated on a case by case basis at the time impact fees are to be paid.

CALCULATION OF INVESTMENT TO BE PAID BY GROWTH

Table 4 shows the calculation of the investment in parks and recreational facilities that needs to be paid by growth. Column 1 lists the investment in parks and recreational facilities needed to serve growth (from Table 3), column 2 shows the value of City investment for growth from grants and some local revenues, and column 3 is the remaining investment in parks and recreational facilities that will be paid by growth.

Table 4: Investment in Parks and Recreational Facilities to be Paid by Growth

(1) Investment Needed for Growth	(2) City Investment for Growth	(3) Investment to be Paid by Growth
\$ 8,908,157	\$ 2,087,733	\$ 6,820,424

Table 4 shows that growth in Sammamish needs to pay \$8,908,157 for additional parks and recreational facilities to maintain the City's standards for future growth. The City expects to use \$2,087,733 in grant and local revenue towards this cost, and the remaining \$6,820,424 will be paid by growth.

The portion to be paid by each new dwelling unit is presented in the next chapter.

4. Impact Fees

In this chapter, the investment in additional parks and recreational facilities to be paid by growth (from Chapter 3) is converted to impact fees per dwelling unit. As in the previous chapter, this chapter includes a description of the formulas and each variable that is used in each formula, an explanation of the use of data in the formula, and the calculation of the impact fee per dwelling unit, using formulas 5 through 7.

FORMULA 5: Growth Cost Per Person

The growth cost per person is calculated by dividing the investment in parks and recreational facilities that is to be paid by growth by the amount of population growth.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Investment} & & \text{Growth} & & \text{Growth} \\ \text{to be Paid} & \div & \text{Population} & = & \text{Cost} \\ \text{by Growth} & & & & \text{per Person} \end{array}$$

There are no new variables used in formula 5. Both variables were developed in previous formulas.

CALCULATION OF INVESTMENT TO BE PAID BY GROWTH

Table 5 shows the calculation of the cost per person of parks and recreational facilities that needs to be paid by growth. Column 1 lists the investment in parks and recreational facilities needed to be paid by growth (from Table 4), column 2 shows the growth population (see Variable B, Formula 2, above), and column 3 is the growth cost per person.

Table 5: Growth Cost per Person

(1) Investment to be Paid by Growth	(2) Growth Population	(3) Growth Cost per Person
\$ 6,820,424	7,750	\$ 880.06

Table 5 shows that cost per new person for parks and recreational facilities that will be paid by growth is \$880.06. The amount to be paid by each new dwelling unit depends on the number of persons per dwelling unit.

FORMULA 6: Cost per Dwelling Unit

The cost per dwelling unit is calculated by multiplying the growth cost per person by the number of persons per dwelling unit.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Growth} & & \text{Average} & & \text{Cost} \\ \text{Cost} & \times & \text{Persons per} & = & \text{per} \\ \text{per Person} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} \end{array}$$

There is one new variable used in formula 6 that requires explanation: (E) average number of persons per dwelling unit.

VARIABLE (E): AVERAGE PERSONS PER DWELLING UNIT

The number of persons per dwelling unit is the factor used to convert the growth cost of parks and recreational facilities per person into impact fees per dwelling unit. According to the 2000 Census, the number of persons per dwelling unit in the City of Sammamish ranges from 3.02 persons per single family dwelling unit to 1.59 persons per mobile home.

CALCULATION OF IMPACT FEE PER DWELLING UNIT

Table 6 shows the calculation of the parks and recreational facilities cost per dwelling unit. Column 1 lists the types of dwelling units, column 2 shows the average persons per dwelling unit, and column 3 is the cost per dwelling unit calculated by multiplying the number of persons per dwelling unit times the growth cost of \$880.06 per person from Table 5.

Table 6: Cost per Dwelling Unit

(1) Type of Dwelling Unit	(2) Average Persons per Dwelling Unit	(3) Cost per Dwelling Unit @ \$880.06 per Person
Single Family	3.02	\$ 2,656.82
Multi-Family	1.74	1,534.91
Mobile Home	1.59	1,397.74

FORMULA 7: Impact Fee per Dwelling Unit

The impact fee per dwelling unit is calculated by subtracting the revenue credit adjustment from the cost per dwelling unit.

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \text{Cost} & & \text{Revenue Credit} & & \text{Impact Fee} \\ \text{Per} & - & \text{Adjustment per} & = & \text{Per} \\ \text{Dwelling Unit} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} & & \text{Dwelling Unit} \end{array}$$

There is one new variable used in formula 7 that requires explanation: (F) revenue credit adjustment per dwelling unit.

VARIABLE (F): REVENUE CREDIT ADJUSTMENT PER DWELLING UNIT

The revenue credit adjustment is a reduction of the cost per dwelling unit to account for revenues paid by new development that are earmarked or proratable to projects that are funded with impact fees. As described in Variable (D), above, the City spends some local revenue to pay for a portion of the cost of parks and recreational facilities needed to serve growth. These revenues are the portion of the real estate excise tax and local property taxes that are paid by new development and earmarked or prorated to parks capital improvements that serve new development. The portion of these revenues that is paid by new development and used for the same projects as the impact fee is equal to 1.93% of the cost of the projects. Therefore, the cost per dwelling unit will be reduced by a revenue credit adjustment equal to 1.93% of the cost per dwelling unit. The result will be the impact fee per dwelling unit.

CALCULATION OF IMPACT FEE PER DWELLING UNIT

Table 7 shows the calculation of the parks and recreational facilities impact fee per dwelling unit. Column 1 lists the types of dwelling units, column 2 shows the cost per dwelling unit from Table 6, column 3 shows the amount of the revenue credit adjustment, and column 4 is the impact fee per dwelling unit

Table 7: Impact Fee per Dwelling Unit

(1) Type of Dwelling Unit	(2) Cost per Dwelling Unit	(3) Revenue Credit Adjustment per Dwelling Unit	(4) Impact Fee per Dwelling Unit
Single Family	\$ 2,656.82	\$ 51.17	\$ 2,605.65
Multi-Family	1,534.91	29.56	1,505.35
Mobile Home	1,397.74	26.92	1,370.82

Appendix A: Deficiency or Reserve Capacity of Parks and Recreation Facilities

The need for additional park land and recreation facilities is determined by using standards for levels of service for park land and recreation facilities to calculate the total quantity of facilities that are required. The required quantity is then compared to the existing inventory to determine if there is an existing deficiency that must be made up without regard to growth, or if there is reserve capacity that can serve growth. The deficiency or reserve is applied to the total requirement in order to determine the net need for new capital investments to serve growth. This analysis complies with the requirements of RCW 82.02.050(4).

Value Required for Existing Population

The table below shows the calculation of the value of parks and recreational facilities needed for the City's current population. Column 1 lists the level of service standard for capital investment per person from Table 1, column 2 shows the City's 2005 population, and column 3 is the total value of parks and recreational facilities that is needed to serve the existing population.

Value of Parks and Recreational Facilities Needed for Existing Population

(1) Capital Investment per Person	(2) 2006 Population	(3) Value Needed for Existing Population
\$ 1,149.45	39,730	\$ 45,667,590

Value of Sammamish 2006 Inventory of Parks and Recreational Facilities

The value of the City's current inventory is calculated by totaling the value or cost of the acres and recreational facilities the City owns. The detailed inventory and values of each park and its recreational facilities is shown in Table 1. The total value of the current inventory is \$45,667,590.

Deficiency or Reserve Capacity of Parks and Recreational Facilities

The deficiency or reserve capacity is the difference between the value of park and recreational facility assets that are needed to provide the level of service standard for the existing population and the value of the City's existing inventory of parks and recreational facilities. As of 2006, Sammamish has no deficiency and no reserve capacity:

Value of 2006 Inventory	\$ 45,667,590
Value Required for 2006 Population	<u>45,667,590</u>
Deficiency or Reserve Capacity Value	0



Appendix **F**





Appendix **G**

City of Sammamish 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Adopted May 14, 2012

PARK/PROJECTS		TOTAL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Unfunded
ATHLETIC FIELDS		2,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0	5,950,000
1	Inglewood Jr. High - Phase I Upgrade existing football field with synthetic turf and lights. Includes restroom, soccer/lacrosse overlay with new drainage and irrigation.	0							2,400,000
2	East Sammamish Park Athletic Fields - Soccer Field Upgrade existing soccer field with drainage, synthetic turf goal boxes, irrigation, retaining walls, bleachers.	0							750,000
3	Beaver Lake Park Athletic Fields - Soccer Field One multi-use rectangular synthetic field with lighting.	0							1,500,000
4	Beaver Lake Park Athletic Fields - Baseball Fields Reconfigure 3 existing natural turf softball fields to 3 natural turf little league baseball fields.	0							1,300,000
5	Eastlake Community Fields - Field Turf Replacement Replacement of the carpet at ELHS community fields.	1,000,000			1,000,000				
6	Skyline Community Fields - Field Turf Replacement Replacement of the carpet at Skyline community fields.	1,000,000				1,000,000			
BEAVER LAKE PARK		2,438,250	0	65,750	33,000	1,114,500	1,225,000	0	3,733,000
7	Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Restroom Add waterless restroom with outdoor shower for beach use. (Requires KCPH approval for greywater system. Does not include sewer connection).	240,750		15,750		225,000			
8	Beaver Lake Park - Shoreline Improvements Swim beach, floating platform, fishing pier, shoreline restoration.	550,000		50,000		500,000			
9a	Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Parking Parking lot expansion and stormwater improvements. (Design fees include 7b project).	469,000				69,000	400,000		
9b	Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Stormwater improvements at central meadow.	175,000					175,000		
10	Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Playground, site furnishings, landscape and irrigation.	374,500				24,500	350,000		
11	Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Lodge improvements with SW terrace and trail improvements.	321,000				21,000	300,000		463,000

City of Sammamish 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Adopted May 14, 2012

PARK/PROJECTS		TOTAL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Unfunded
12	Beaver Lake Park - Westside Parking Ballfield parking lot expansion, vehicular access reconfiguration and park entryway at corner of 24th & 244th. (Does not include sidewalk - coordinate with TIP).	308,000			33,000	275,000			275,000
13	Beaver Lake Park - Dog Park Expansion Dog park expansion and trail improvements (requires 3 baseball field reconfiguration).	0							320,000
14	Beaver Lake Park - Westside Plaza New restroom at ballfields, picnic shelter, sports plaza and play area (requires 3 baseball field reconfiguration).	0							2,250,000
15	Beaver Lake Park - Center Woods Trail Improvements	0							425,000
BEAVER LAKE PRESERVE		200,000	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	500,000
16	Beaver Lake Preserve - Phase II Picnic meadow restoration with site furnishings on shoreline side of Preserve. Trail connections to shoreline. Improved/repared trail to Soaring Eagle Park. Potential smaller view platform. (Design & permitting complete in 2012).	200,000	200,000						
17	Beaver Lake Preserve - Phase III Parking lot expansion, restrooms, one view deck and two viewpoints, wildlife blind, signage, complete trail improvements. (does not include sewer connection/frontage improvements).	0							500,000
EAST SAMMAMISH PARK		1,150,500	0	0	0	91,000	1,059,500	0	1,000,000
18	East Sammamish Park - Playground Playground upgrades, new spray park, climbing wall and picnic shelter relocation.	650,000				45,500	604,500		
19	East Sammamish Park - Parking Parking lot expansion, frontage improvements, pedestrian lighting, tennis court access and trail to Margaret Mead Elementary.	500,500				45,500	455,000		
20	East Sammamish Park - Restroom Restroom and trail improvements, and destination garden.	0							500,000
21	East Sammamish Park - Picnic New picnic shelter, site furnishings, plantings.	0							500,000

City of Sammamish 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Adopted May 14, 2012

PARK/PROJECTS		TOTAL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Unfunded
EVANS CREEK PRESERVE		649,500	225,000	25,000	25,000	0	24,500	350,000	1,950,000
22	Evans Creek Preserve - Sahalee Trail connection to Sahalee. (Does not include acquisition costs).	200,000	200,000						
23	Evans Creek Preserve - Circulation Includes vehicular bridge replacement, internal road, 20 stall lower parking lot, 224 St road improvements and culvert replacement.	0							1,750,000
24	Evans Creek Preserve - Picnic Shelter & Play Area Picnic structure and informal play area.	374,500					24,500	350,000	
25	Evans Creek Preserve - Trails Completion of internal trail system and habitat improvements.	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000				
26	Evans Creek Preserve - Trail Connector Equestrian/bicycle outer trail connector (Does not include property or easement acquisition costs).	0							200,000
SE 8th STREET PARK		448,000	48,000	400,000	0	0	0	0	0
27	SE 8th Street Park - Phase I Phase I improvements TBD by 2012 Master Plan.	448,000	48,000	400,000					
28	SE 8th Street Park - Phase II Phase II improvements TBD by 2012 Master Plan.	0							TBD
NE SAMMAMISH PARK		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150,000
29	NE Sammamish Park - Restroom Replace portable restroom with flush toilets and permanent restroom building.	0							150,000
SAMMAMISH LANDING		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,000,000
30	Sammamish Landing - Parking Upland parking lot, restroom, entry plaza, ADA access from Parkway to ELST.	0							2,000,000
31	Sammamish Landing - North North trails, beach, trailside garden with shelter and site furnishings.	0							1,000,000
32	Sammamish Landing - South South trails, beach, trailside terrace with shelter and play area, and restoration.	0							1,000,000

City of Sammamish 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Adopted May 14, 2012

PARK/PROJECTS		TOTAL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Unfunded
33	Sammamish Landing - Upland Upland picnic shelter and garden (requires parking).	0							500,000
34	Sammamish Landing - Central Beach Central beach, retaining walls and boardwalk.	0							1,500,000
SAMMAMISH COMMONS		110,000	0	0	0	0	10,000	100,000	0
35	Lower Commons Development of a waterless restroom building.	110,000					10,000	100,000	
THIRTY ACRES (SOARING EAGLE PARK)		50,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	125,000
36	Thirty Acres (Soaring Eagle Park) - Master Plan Complete the Master Plan for Soaring Eagle Park.	50,000			50,000				125,000
TRAILS		1,421,000	21,000	300,000	77,000	1,023,000	0	0	3,150,000
37	Beaver Lake Trail Soft surface path along one side of road from Beaver Lake Park to Beaver Lake Preserve. (Does not include acquisition costs)	1,100,000			77,000	1,023,000			
38	Gas Pipeline Trail (does not include acquisition costs) NE 25th Way southeasterly to NE 14th Place.	0							1,500,000
39	Sammamish Commons Trail Connection Phase I Lower Sammamish Commons to SE 8th St. Park. (Does not include acquisition costs)	321,000	21,000	300,000					
40	Sammamish Commons Trail Connection Phase II SE 8th St from 218th Ave SE to 212th Ave SE. (Coordinate with TIP sidewalk projects; does not include acquisition costs).	0							600,000
41	Plateau to SE 43rd Way - Part I Trail along SE 43rd Way, through the DNR property to end of 219th Ave SE. (Does not include acquisition costs)	0							700,000
42	Plateau to SE 43rd Way - Part II 500' of trail from end of existing sidewalk on north side of SE 43rd Way to City limits. (Coordinate with TIP sidewalk projects; (Does not include acquisition costs).	0							350,000
LAND ACQUISITION		1,000,000	0	0	0	500,000	0	500,000	0
43	Land Acquisition Acquire land for future parks as opportunities become available.	1,000,000				500,000		500,000	

City of Sammamish 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Adopted May 14, 2012

PARK/PROJECTS		TOTAL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Unfunded
FACILITIES		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,500,000
44	Indoor Field House Placeholder for the development of an indoor field house for athletic use. Requires further study.								8,500,000
GENERAL		1,200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	0
45	Capital Replacement Program This ongoing program is an investment for the replacement of facilities (ie. play areas, picnic tables, etc) within parks.	1,200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
GENERAL		846,725	49,400	79,075	118,500	322,850	231,900	45,000	0
46	Capital Contingency Reserve Reserve fund for capital projects.	846,725	49,400	79,075	118,500	322,850	231,900	45,000	
TOTAL CIP EXPENDITURES		11,513,975	743,400	1,069,825	1,503,500	4,251,350	2,750,900	1,195,000	31,058,000
PARKS CIP REVENUE									
	Beginning Fund Balance (Unrestricted)		2,000,000	2,637,600	2,885,846	3,752,482	2,371,122	1,011,943	
	Operating Contribution - General Fund		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)		1,050,000	1,050,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,150,000	
	Park Impact Fees		325,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	286,000	325,000	
	Anticipated Grants		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	King County Levy Funding - Funds BL Trail Project (Restricted)		0	0	0	500,000	0	0	
	Field Turf Replacement Fund (Restricted)		0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0	
	Investment Interest		6,000	8,071	10,136	9,990	5,721	1,643	
TOTAL PARKS CIP REVENUE			3,381,000	3,955,671	5,255,982	6,622,472	3,762,843	2,488,586	
ENDING FUND BALANCE			2,637,600	2,885,846	3,752,482	2,371,122	1,011,943	1,293,586	